

PERUSAL SCRIPT



Newport, Maine

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Been There, Done That

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ORDER #3351

CAST

Been There — She is an attractive smart-looking woman in her fifties and dressed in a smart jogging outfit to match her smart apartment.

Done That — a reasonably middled-aged white guy

PLACE: a smartly furnished apartment

TIME: the present

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT a 10-minute play by James Arrington 1f, 2m Simple setting. A man and a woman meet, commiserate, laugh, plan, console, discuss common interests and life events. A knowing and comfortingly crazy look appears on their faces. The single's world is intimidating for those who are suddenly forced to enter it. One of these people is entering and the other is extremely knowledgeable. The conversation is meant to inform and steady. Instead it warms and they're ready! **ORDER #3351**

James Arrington — Retired former Associate Professor, Former Department Chair at Utah Valley University. James Arrington was schooled professionally at The American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco and then earned a master's degree in Theatre from Brigham Young University. He has worked professionally for 30 years became a sensation on the Utah theatre scene when he returned to create and star in his one-man show *Here's Brother Brigham*. It toured the U.S., Canada, and the British isles. He went on to write and produce numerous theatre pieces including several one-man shows: *J. Golden*, *Tumuaki!* *Matthew Cowley of the Pacific*, and co-wrote *Wilford Woodruff: God's Fisherman*. He wrote and starred in a quirky TRIPLE *The Farley Family Reunion*, *Farley Two: The Next Gyration*, and *Farley Family Xmas* and a charming musical *Christmas Without Christmas!?* He co-wrote the pioneer musical *The Trail of Dreams* and was granted a commission by the Sesquicentennial UtahWar Committee to co-write and tour *March of the Salt Soldiers: The Utah War*. He has written for stage, screen, outdoor pageant, radio drama, and puppet shows.

been there – done that

(The doorbell rings.)

BEEN THERE: *(from offstage)* Uh oh, Oh no...

(BEEN THERE enters. She MUMBLES as she enters, slightly limping.)

Of all the days...

(The doorbell rings again, though not insistently. She grabs the back of a chair for support and GROANS.)

Not a good day... Come on baby, answer the door.

(She launches herself in the direction of the door and opens it just as the doorbell rings again. There stands DONE THAT.)

DONE THAT: *(still outside the door)* Oh, I'm sorry, I wasn't sure you heard...

BEEN THERE: No, no... No problem... I'm just having some trouble getting around today...

DONE THAT: Oh, I'm sorry... maybe I should...

(He offers to leave.)

BEEN THERE: *(good-naturedly)* No no, I'm here, I might as well do something now that I've gotten all the way over here...

DONE THAT: Really, I don't have to...

BEEN THERE: What do you need?

DONE THAT: Oh, uh well, uhm, your sister told me to come over and...

BEEN THERE: Oh, you're that guy? That guy that...

DONE THAT: *(With humor)* I don't know if I'm THAT guy, necessarily...

BEEN THERE: Sure, you are, sure you are. Friends of hers are friends of mine.

(Ushering him in)

Come on in.

DONE THAT: Oh well, thanks.

BEEN THERE: Make yourself comfortable.

(She limps to a chair near the door.)

It just takes me a second... my back today...

DONE THAT: Ooooo, been there, done that.

BEEN THERE: You too, huh? I hate this...

DONE THAT: Here let me help you.

(He offers his arm, and she takes it while struggling toward the chair.)

BEEN THERE: Over there. It's an ergonomic chair. It'll help.

DONE THAT: Good. Glad to help.

(She sits and settles, heaving a sigh of relief.)

BEEN THERE: Sorry about this. Sometimes I feel like an old lady.

DONE THAT: Well, you certainly don't look like it... I mean... if that helps.

BEEN THERE: Helps the mind if not the back.

(She smiles)

Now my sister says you're new to the singles' world and you've got some concerns. Is that right?

DONE THAT: Well, yeah, I guess. See, I'm actually not even single yet... just inches away from a divorce.

BEEN THERE: Inches, huh? Well, in the single world we have a word for that.

DONE THAT: Oh?

BEEN THERE: Married.

DONE THAT: Oh! Oh, yeah... yeah, good one...

(He laughs nervously)

BEEN THERE: Been there...

(She laughs)

DONE THAT: Done that...

(He laughs oddly)

...yes, yes. Does that... uhm, make you uneasy?

BEEN THERE: Heaven's no. I know lots of married people...

(Whispering)

I even talk to some of them...

(Again, she laughs a hearty laugh. He tries to remain calm. It's not what he expected.)

DONE THAT: Well, I feel kind of strange talking to you about this...

BEEN THERE: Nonsense. Everybody needs a little help. It's like getting reborn into an alien world.

DONE THAT: Yeah, kinda does feel like that, actually. And I suppose that's why your sister sent me over to see you. See... uhm... without being indiscreet, she says you've kind of been through it all.

BEEN THERE: Yeah, been around the block a couple of times. More than I really want to admit.

DONE THAT: Well, she said you might be able to help me out, because I'm in a little bit of a quandary.

BEEN THERE: Quandary, eh? Well,

(Dramatically)

“this sounds serious doctor... let's get out the operating instruments!”

(She laughs a kind of maniacal fake laugh and then laughs for real. She's fun.)

DONE THAT: *(laughs hesitantly)* I don't know if I...

BEEN THERE: I'm sorry. I shouldn't take this lightly. Obviously, you need some good advice... and that's completely free, so shoot.

DONE THAT: Yeah, right. That's okay, uhm, it's actually nice that you're so good natured about this...

BEEN THERE: Ergonomic chair. No home should be without one!... so, kiddo, what's the deal?

DONE THAT: Okay, well let's see. I should tell you I've been separated for over three years.

BEEN THERE: Whew! You either have the patience of Job or you're not paying attention.

DONE THAT: Well, if those are the only choices, I guess I wasn't paying attention. I just started concentrating on other things. My kids. My job. You know...

BEEN THERE: Been there, done that.

DONE THAT: Yeah, so well... I started some online communicating to mainstream myself...

BEEN THERE: Uh oh. I can hear this one coming a mile away... and you started dating and...

DONE THAT: Oh no, nothing like that. I made a promise to myself that I wouldn't date until I was divorced.

BEEN THERE: Oh, well, that was smarter of you than you could have known.

DONE THAT: I hope so. Actually, I did it because I'm kind of a moralistic kind of guy.

BEEN THERE: Good for you. Pretty rare in today's world.

(To herself)

Really.

(Again, to him)

But you were saying, you got online...

DONE THAT: Yeah, one of those single sites.

BEEN THERE: Been there, done that.

DONE THAT: Really? Oh, good. You'll understand...

BEEN THERE: Well, you didn't think you were the only one, did you?

(She laughs)

DONE THAT: Oh. Oh! heck no... I mean, that was the entire point. I wanted to get my head into a kind of single place...

BEEN THERE: Whatever that is...

DONE THAT: Yeah, whatever that is. At least, it was kind of a mystery to me, that single thing... you know, having been married all those years...

BEEN THERE: How many?

DONE THAT: Well, 25 altogether with the separation...

BEEN THERE: Ouch... yeah, I won't say sorry, cuz you're probably pretty happy about getting out of it.

DONE THAT: Boy, you do know your stuff.

BEEN THERE: That's why...

DONE THAT: ...your sister sent me over. Right.

(Pause, here it comes)

FOUR AND A HALF MORE PAGES TO THE END