

the beginning of

**JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS** (from **FUNNY AS A CRUTCH**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

*Time:* The present

*Place:* A nicely furnished office in a large corporation

*Characters:* ALICE FLEMNER, an executive

SAM THOMPSON, has a visible disability

SAM'S THING

(and ALICE'S THING – not to be mentioned in any program)

As the play begins, ALICE FLEMNER, a smartly-dressed executive, leans over the intercom on her desk.

ALICE

(into the intercom:)

Send in Mr. Thompson.

SAM THOMPSON enters. A man with a visible disability, Sam is dressed appropriately for a corporate setting. With Sam enters SAM'S THING.

SAM

Good morning, Ms. Flemner. I'm very pleased to finally meet you.

ALICE

(a bit distracted by Sam's Thing)

I'm pleased to meet you, too –

(referring to the thing:)

and, and –

SAM

Oh, this. It's just this thing I live with. Just ignore it.

Sam's Thing smiles.

ALICE

Well, I'm, I'm not quite –

SAM

It takes a moment to get used to, but trust me, it's no big thing.

Sam's Thing shrugs.

ALICE

Well, I'll, I'll try.

SAM

Ms. Flemner, when I heard about the opening in your company, I knew I was the man you're looking for.

ALICE

I've heard excellent reports about you.

SAM

Let me get right to the point. –

As Sam continues to talk, Alice is a bit distracted by Sam's Thing. When the Thing notices he is being looked at, he smiles at Alice. Then he gives a big smile, a slight wave of the hand, and finally a wink. And perhaps more.

SAM (cont'd)

When I was at business school, my professors drilled into me this basic lesson: For a company to succeed in today's climate, the human resources in that company must develop a daring vision –

ALICE

(after Sam's Thing winks:)

I'm sorry, but, but your thing is distracting me.

SAM

(to his Thing:)

Behave yourself.

SAM'S THING

She looked at me first.

SAM

How many times have I told you –

SAM'S THING

(chastened, for a moment)

Okay.

ALICE

(to Sam:)

You were saying –

As Sam continues, Alice looks at Sam's Thing again. Sam's Thing gives her a big smile, a sexy smile, some flirtatious looks, and then points to her, points to himself, points to both of them, and gives a hearty "two thumbs up".

SAM (cont'd)

Yes, as I was saying, a company must develop a daring vision, and test it against time-honored rules which have governed business for generations. I believe I offer you the perfect combination –

ALICE

(after Sam's Things' "thumbs up":)  
Mr. Thompson, your thing is distracting me again.

SAM

(to his thing:)

Stop it.

SAM'S THING

I can't help it if she finds me alluring.

SAM

Quiet.

SAM'S THING

Captivating.

SAM

Enough.

SAM'S THING

Irresistible.

SAM

Sit!

Beat.

SAM'S THING

Cute.

SAM

Where was I...

ALICE

Umm, time-honored rules –

As Sam continues, Sam's Thing smiles at Alice again and then makes a few thrusting motions. Then he mimes cradling a baby in his arms.

SAM

Oh, yes. As you saw on my résumé, I've got experience in both established Fortune 500 companies and new cutting-edge technological enterprises. It's this combination which makes me confident that I offer the qualities you're looking for –

ALICE

(to Sam's Thing when  
he cradles the baby:)

Stop it!

SAM

What?

ALICE

Could you cover your thing?

SAM

Pardon me?

ALICE

I just can't focus on what you're saying when your thing's so –

SAM'S THING

Hot.

ALICE

Creepy.

SAM

Look, I know how awkward this is, but I assure you that after a little while –

SAM'S THING

A lonnnngggg while –

SAM

As soon as people stop paying attention to my thing, he disappears.

ALICE

I hope so.

SAM

To ease your concerns, I've brought several reference letters from people who have worked with me.

ALICE

I'll be glad to look at them.

Sam opens his briefcase and begins looking for them. He's so involved in this he doesn't notice that Sam's Thing moves towards Alice's desk.

SAM

Now if I can only find where I put them...

SAM'S THING

(to Alice:)

How'd you like to see me – naked?

SAM

I know they're here somewhere.

SAM'S THING

How would you like to – touch me?

SAM

They'll put this thing in perspective.

SAM'S THING

How'd you like me to become *your* thing?

ALICE

Get away from me!

Sam has found the references; he looks at Alice.

SAM

What'd I do?

ALICE

Your thing is repulsive.

SAM'S THING

I didn't say anything she wasn't already thinking.

ALICE

That's not true.

SAM'S THING

I think she wants to have a thing with your thing.

ALICE

Get out of here.

SAM'S THING

Your lips say "no", but your eyes say "Whoa!"

ALICE

Get out.

SAM

If you'll just take a look at my references...

ALICE

Look, maybe your thing hasn't been a problem at other places –

SAM'S THING

None that folks will mention.

SAM

Will you be quiet?!

SAM'S THING

Why are you yelling at *me*?

SAM

Because everywhere I go, you have to be the center of attention. At a sales meeting. On a bus. At the supermarket. I can't go halfway through a date without you yelling, "Hey, what about me! What about me!"

SAM'S THING

I'm fine with your friends.

SAM

They're used to you.

SAM'S THING

I'm behaved with anyone who likes you.

SAM

How can anyone get to like me when you keep distracting them?

SAM'S THING

Well, maybe if you stopped being so embarrassed by me!

ALICE

Look, it's clear to me that you and  
your thing still have a lot of issues.

SAM'S THING

Like you don't?

ALICE

I don't what?

SAM'S THING

Have issues with your thing.

ALICE

I don't have a thing.

SAM'S THING

Everybody has a thing, lady.  
Some peoples' are just more visible.