

*No One Else's Problem*  
by David Hilder

*(GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO of New York paces, rubbing his head. This is clearly not his best afternoon. With him, not pacing, is BARBARA, one of his advisers. They've been at this a while.)*

BARBARA

So, what if we look into a small start – replacing them on just one line? At first.

ANDREW

The switches?

BARBARA

Yes, the switches.

ANDREW

One line. And then more.

BARBARA

Exactly.

ANDREW

Hm. No.

BARBARA

What about –

ANDREW

No. We're not going to replace the switches.

BARBARA

You realize they're over a hundred –

ANDREW

Over a hundred years old, yes, I understand that. But this is taking focus away from the rest of the state.

BARBARA

It's not like this is a fake issue. You do realize millions of New Yorkers rely on –

ANDREW

NEW YORK CITY IS NOT THE ONLY NEW YORK.

I don't think anyone disagrees with that.

BARBARA

Ha. Hell of a lot you know.

ANDREW

I meant –

BARBARA

City people are a litigious bunch of uppity motherfuckers.

ANDREW

I meant that MOST people understand and agree with you.

BARBARA

HA!

ANDREW

Including people in the city.

BARBARA

See! RIGHT THERE!

ANDREW

What?

BARBARA

“The city.” I fucking hate that!

ANDREW

It's an easy way to reference –

BARBARA

It's reductive! And...and MEAN! To people who live in other cities!

ANDREW

Okay, okay.

BARBARA

New York City is not THE city!

ANDREW

You have a lot of anger.

BARBARA

ANDREW

I have a lot on my plate!

BARBARA

No one disagrees with that, either. Who exactly are you mad at?

ANDREW

MY PREDECESSORS! OBVIOUSLY!

BARBARA

Ah.

ANDREW

No one could have dealt with the subway before me? It's been a shit show for decades!

BARBARA

We can't –

ANDREW

No one realized the motherfucking switches dated back to the 1800s until I took office?!

BARBARA

Ridership is up since –

ANDREW

Yes, yes, ridership has doubled since the blah blah blah SHUT YOUR PIE HOLE!

BARBARA

All right.

*(BARBARA heads swiftly for the door.)*

ANDREW

Don't go. Please.

BARBARA

“Please?”

ANDREW

Yeah. Please don't go.

BARBARA

You don't say “please.”

ANDREW

Just a sign of how stressed I am!

BARBARA

You can't have it both ways: You can't be mad at other governors who didn't do anything about this issue AND claim that you also don't want to do anything about it.

ANDREW

I just –

BARBARA

You don't think they also used that tired "NYC isn't all of New York" argument?

ANDREW

It's –

BARBARA

They all said the same thing! I'm sure!

ANDREW

You don't know that.

BARBARA

So if you want this problem to go away –

ANDREW

Oh, God, that's the only thing I want.

BARBARA

You have to deal with it. You have to start.

ANDREW

I declared a state of emergency, okay? And I think my million dollar prize idea is pretty good.

BARBARA

Um.

ANDREW

What.

BARBARA

I mean...it's...

ANDREW

It's what.

BARBARA

It's flashy, that's for sure.

ANDREW

Fuck you. (*BARBARA heads toward the door again*) Don't leave!

BARBARA

Don't say that to me, then!

ANDREW

Fine! Un-fuck you. I hereby un-say it.

BARBARA

It's – The whole “best idea to improve the MTA gets a million bucks” thing sounds desperate.

ANDREW

WE ARE DESPERATE, HAVE YOU NOT BEEN PAYING ATTENTION?!

BARBARA

I mean it's weak.

ANDREW

That's –

BARBARA

It literally – kind of proudly – says, “We have no fucking idea what the fuck we're doing, someone please fucking save us.”

ANDREW

That's a lot of language from you.

BARBARA

Yes.

ANDREW

I'm usually the one who drops the f-bombs around here.

BARBARA

I was making a point.

ANDREW

You sure were. So what do we do?

BARBARA

I mean, we give somebody a million dollars, that cat's out of the bag. But we also look into new switches.

ANDREW

Can we make another country take over New York City while that's happening?

This isn't someone else's problem.

BARBARA

Ugh.

ANDREW

It's yours.

BARBARA

YES, I GOT THAT. I did marriage equality, can't someone else do this?!

ANDREW

No.

BARBARA

I need a nap.

ANDREW

You can't –

BARBARA

I'm gonna take a goddamn nap and then I'm going to sit down with you and figure out which line we start with.

ANDREW

All right.

BARBARA

Replacing the goddamn switches.

ANDREW

You'll be a hero.

BARBARA

What's that?

ANDREW

If you modernize that whole system. A project of that scale? I'm just saying it'll get eyes on you. National eyes.

BARBARA

Oh. Really?

ANDREW

I'll make sure it does.

BARBARA

Okay. Why didn't you say that before?

ANDREW

I'm more stick than carrot, I guess.

BARBARA

Okay. Nap time.

ANDREW

Enjoy.

BARBARA

You promise? National eyes?

ANDREW

I guarantee it.

BARBARA

You know what color house I want to live in someday.

ANDREW

I do.

BARBARA

Okay. See you in an hour.

ANDREW

*(ANDREW leaves, shutting the door behind him.)*

BARBARA  
*(under her breath as she collects her things) ...everyone knows what color house you want to live in someday.*

*(Looking back into the room before she exits, making sure nothing's left behind, BARBARA turns off the lights and shuts the door behind her. Blackout.)*