

Laurie Anderson "Only an Expert"

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Now only an expert can deal with the problem
Because half the problem is seeing the problem
And only an expert can deal with the problem
Only an expert can deal with the problem

So if thereâ€™s no expert dealing with the problem
Itâ€™s really actually twice the problem
Cause only an expert can deal with the problem
Only an expert can deal with the problem

Now in America we like solutions
We like solutions to problems
And thereâ€™s so many companies that offer
solutions
Companies with names like Pet Solution
The Hair Solution. The Debt Solution. The World
Solution. The Sushi Solution.
Companies with experts ready to solve the problems.
Cause only an expert can see thereâ€™s a problem
And only an expert can deal with the problem
Only an expert can deal with the problem

Now letâ€™s say youâ€™re invited to be on Oprah
And you donâ€™t have a problem
But you want to go on the show, so you need a problem
So you invent a problem
But if youâ€™re not an expert in problems
Youâ€™re probably not going to invent a very plausible
problem
And so youâ€™re probably going to get nailed
Youâ€™re going to get exposed
Youâ€™re going to have to bow down and apologize
And beg for the publicâ€™s forgiveness.
Cause only an expert can see thereâ€™s a problem
And only an expert can deal with the problem
Only an expert can deal with the problem

Now on these shows, the shows that try to solve your
problems
The big question is always â€œHow can I get control?
How can I take control?â€
But donâ€™t forget this is a question for the regular

viewer

The person who's barely getting by.

The person who's watching shows about people with problems

The person who's part of the 60% of the U.S. population

1.3 weeks away, 1.3 pay checks away from homelessness.

In other words, a person with problems.

So when experts say, "Let's get to the root of the problem

Let's take control of the problem

So if you take control of the problem you can solve the problem."

Now often this doesn't work at all because the situation is completely out of control.

Cause only an expert can deal with the problem

Only an expert can deal with the problem

Only an expert can deal with the problem

So who are these experts?

Experts are usually self-appointed people or elected officials

Or people skilled in sales techniques, trained or self-taught

To focus on things that might be identified as problems.

Now sometimes these things are not actually problems.

But the expert is someone who studies the problem

And tries to solve the problem.

The expert is someone who carries malpractice insurance.

Because often the solution becomes the problem.

Cause only an expert can deal with the problem

Only an expert can deal with the problem

Only an expert can deal with the problem

Now sometimes experts look for weapons.

And sometimes they look everywhere for weapons.

And sometimes when they don't find any weapons

Sometimes other experts say, "If you haven't found any weapons

It doesn't mean there are no weapons."

And other experts looking for weapons find things like cleaning fluids.

And refrigerator rods. And small magnets. And they say,

"These things may look like common objects to you

But in our opinion, they could be weapons.

Or they could be used to make weapons.

Or they could be used to ship weapons.

Or to store weapons.â€”
Cause only an expert can see they might be weapons
And only an expert can see they might be problems.
Cause only an expert can deal with the problem
Only an expert can deal with the problem
Only an expert can deal with the problem

And sometimes, if itâ€™s really really really hot.
And itâ€™s July in January.
And thereâ€™s no more snow and huge waves are
wiping out cities.
And hurricanes are everywhere.
And everyone knows itâ€™s a problem.
But if some of the experts say itâ€™s no problem
And other experts claim itâ€™s no problem
Or explain why itâ€™s no problem
Then itâ€™s simply not a problem.
But when an expert says itâ€™s a problem
And makes a movie and wins an Oscar about the
problem
Then all the other experts have to agree that it is most
likely a problem.
Cause only an expert can deal with the problem
Only an expert can deal with the problem
Only an expert can deal with the problem

And even though a county can invade another country.
And flatten it. And ruin it. And create havoc and civil
war in that other country
If the experts say that itâ€™s not a problem
And everyone agrees that theyâ€™re experts good at
seeing problems
Then invading that country is simply not a problem.
And if a country tortures people
And holds citizens without cause or trial and sets up
military tribunals
This is also not a problem.
Unless thereâ€™s an expert who says itâ€™s the
beginning of a problem.
Cause only an expert can deal with the problem
Only an expert can deal with the problem
Only an expert can deal with the problem

Only an expert can see thereâ€™s a problem
And see the problem is half the problem
And only an expert can deal with the problem
Only an expert can deal with the problem

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