

"Only An Expert" by Laurie Anderson (Lyrics)

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 there's no expert dealing with the problem  
It'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 there's so many companies that offer solutions  
Companies with names like the Pet Solution  
The Hair Solution. The Debt Solution. The World Solution. The Sushi Solution.  
Companies with experts ready to solve these problems.

Cause only an expert can see there's a problem  
And only an expert can deal with the problem  
Only an expert can deal with the problem

Now let's say you're invited to be on Oprah  
And you don't have a problem  
But you want to go on the show, and so you need a problem  
And so you invent a problem  
But if you're not an expert in problems  
You're probably not going to make up a very plausible problem  
And so you're probably going to get nailed  
You're going to get exposed  
You're going to have to bow down and apologize  
And beg for the public's forgiveness.

Cause only an expert can deal with the problem  
And only an expert can deal with the problem  
And 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 "How can I get control?  
How can I take control?"  
But don'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 one of the 60% of the U.S. population  
1.3 weeks away, 1.3 pay checks away from a shelter,  
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  
Cause 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  
And only an expert can deal with the problem  
And only an expert can deal with the problem

Now sometimes experts lend you money,  
And sometimes they lend you lots of money,  
And sometimes when the subprime mortgages collapse,  
And banks close and businesses fail and the crisis spreads around the world,  
sometimes other experts say just because all the markets crash,  
Doesn't mean it's necessarily a bad thing  
And other experts says just because your friends are fired and your family's broke,  
And we didn't see it coming,  
Doesn't mean that we were wrong  
And just because you lost your job, and your house, and all your savings,  
Doesn't mean that you don't have to pay for the bailouts, for the traitors, and bankers, and the  
speculators  
Because only an expert can design a bailout,  
And only an expert can expect a bailout

Cause only an expert can deal with the problem  
And only an expert can deal with the problem  
And only an expert can deal with the problem

[Instrumental]

And sometimes, when it's really, really, really, really hot.  
And it's July in January.  
And there's no more snow and huge waves are wiping out cities.  
And hurricanes are everywhere.  
And everyone knows it's a problem.  
But if some of the experts say it's no problem  
And if other experts claim it's no problem  
Or explain why it's no problem  
Then it's simply not a problem.

But when an expert says it's a problem  
And makes a movie about the problem and wins an Oscar about the problem  
And gets the Nobel Prize about the problem,  
Then all the other experts have to agree, it is most likely a problem.

Cause only an expert can deal with the problem  
And only an expert can deal with the problem  
And only an expert can deal with the problem

[Instrumental]

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 it's not a problem  
And everyone agrees they're experts and good at seeing problems  
Then invading those countries 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 there's an expert who says "This is the beginning of a problem."

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Cause only an expert can see there's a problem  
And seeing the problem is half the problem  
Cause only an expert can deal with the problem  
Only an expert can deal with the problem