

THE SHUTDOWN

A Play

by

Ben Bar

Cast of Characters

<u>Pigeon:</u>	An extremely large male pigeon.
<u>Rat:</u>	A clinically paranoid male rat.
<u>Buckley:</u>	A male golden retriever.
<u>Buckley's Owner:</u>	A male yuppie in his mid-20s.
<u>Sunbathing Man:</u>	A male artist in his early 20s.
<u>Seated Man:</u>	A man in his early 40s.
<u>Brittany Looper:</u>	A female newscaster in her mid-30s.
<u>Phillip Broderick:</u>	A male reporter in his late 30s.
<u>Uncooperative Man:</u>	A man in his late 20s.
<u>Elderly Woman:</u>	A woman in her early 80s.
<u>Young Woman:</u>	A woman in her late teens.
<u>Pigeon's Niece:</u>	A young, female pigeon.

Scene

New York City.

Time

September 9th, 2018.

ACT IScene 1

SETTING: We are in Prospect Park. It is a beautiful, sunny summer afternoon. People are everywhere. Some are spread out on the grass with picnic blankets and food, while others are standing, holding balls and frisbees. BUCKLEY is lying down with his eyes closed, three feet left of center stage. He is wearing a red bandana around his neck. At center stage is a large, wire mesh garbage can, filled to the brim with discarded food products.

AT RISE: BUCKLEY sleeps. Parkgoers converse. A cyclist enters from stage left, ringing her bike's bell, and exits stage right. Picnickers pour wine. As the conversations die down, PIGEON flies in from stage right, and gracelessly lands on the rim of the can.

PIGEON

Hey, how ya doin'?

(Five seconds pass.)

RAT

(He emerges from beneath the garbage in the can.)

Oh man, they're coming after me man! They're coming! I can smell them!

(Sniffing madly)

Don't tell me you don't smell that! You smell them coming, too, right?!

PIGEON

Haha, yeah bro, they got cops patrollin' this area every ten frickin' minutes in the summer, especially on a gorgeous Sunday like this one. Tryin' to bust kids for open

PIGEON (Cont.)

containers, for sure. Lotta tourists don't know any better though. French kids. Australian kids. German kids.

RAT

What?! Germans?! They've come for revenge! They're gonna take over Brooklyn, man! They're gonna take over and kill us all!

PIGEON

No, no, these are backpackin', beer-and-cheese Germans, not "Heil Hitler" Germans. Besides, there's more Nazi schmucks grown right here in the U.S.A. these days anyway, y'know?

RAT

Radicalized domestic terrorists you mean! The government is making them do it! Haven't you read my blog, man?! It's the water! The government is controlling their minds by putting chemicals in the drinking water!

PIGEON

Nah, bro, don't worry about it. The government can't do shit these days. Buncha morons. Speakin' of which, what is with this frickin' L train shutdown? Does anyone up in Albany even know what's goin' on down here?

RAT

They're gonna shut it down? I knew it! It's phase one of their plan! First the L, then the J, then the M, then the G! We'll be trapped in Brooklyn! Trapped! Trapped like...

(He submerges and returns with
a hot dog, on which he gnaws
nervously.)

PIGEON

Hah, like you ever leave Brooklyn anyway! So, like I was sayin'...remember how this whole thing started when King Cuomo said he was gonna shut down the L for three frickin' years so that they could fix the damage from Sandy? Then, he said it might actually take seven years. Next thing you know, we're down to an estimated shutdown time of just 18 months, which got changed again to only 15 months! Then, Andy declares a frickin' state of emergency because the whole subway system is a hot mess. Meanwhile, the shutdown date keeps gettin' pushed farther and farther back, some schmucks are suin' the city about it, and hipsters are headin' for the hills! Knowin' Cuomo, he's prolly gonna

PIGEON (Cont.)

call the whole frickin' thing off. I tell ya, the government can't do jack shit right.

(He coos disdainfully)

RAT

Of course they're changing the timing of the shutdown! They're trying to crash the global market! Can't you see that?! Each time they announce bad news about the shutdown, Williamsburg's sky-high property values plummet. That's when the Chinese investors swoop in like hawks and buy up all the land! It's so obvious! Domestic real estate companies make out like bandits, too, but they're controlled by the EPA!

(RAT gesticulates so wildly that the hotdog falls out of his hand and lands on the grass next to the garbage can. This wakes up BUCKLEY, who gets up and walks over to the hotdog. As BUCKLEY approaches, PIGEON makes an alarmed "oorhh!" sound and quickly flutters away, exiting stage right, while RAT lets out an "eek!" and disappears beneath the garbage. BUCKLEY picks up the hotdog with his mouth.)

BUCKLEY'S OWNER

(Running towards BUCKLEY from stage left.)

No! Buckley, no! Stop! Buckley, stop! Buckley!

(BUCKLEY'S OWNER kneels down in front of BUCKLEY and begins panting, out of breath.)

BUCKLEY'S OWNER

Buckley.

(BUCKLEY'S OWNER stares into BUCKLEY's eyes.)

Buckleeeeyyyy...

(BUCKLEY begins chewing the hotdog.)

BUCKLEY'S OWNER

No! Bad! Buckley! Stoppit! Don't eat that! Buckley! Buckley!

BUCKLEY'S OWNER (Cont.)

(He pulls the hotdog out of
BUCKLEY'S mouth and drops it in
the garbage can with disgust,
then turns to face BUCKLEY.)

That's definitely not vegan, Buckley! I can't believe you
tried to eat that hotdog. You know better!

SUNBATHING MAN

(Speaking with a hat covering
his face as he lies on his back.)

Totally. Gross AF. Hotdogs are so ghetto. What are
we...back in college or something?

BUCKLEY'S OWNER

I know, right? Like, why would anyone eat that? Come on
Buckley, we gotta go home if you can't behave here.

(BUCKLEY'S OWNER and BUCKLEY
exit stage left.)

(PIGEON enters from stage right and
returns to the rim of the can.)

PIGEON

(Unfazed)

Controlled by the EPA? Pfftt. Bro, the EPA is fucked.
They've got like...one guy workin' there now!

RAT

Yeah, which is why we, the people, are the ones who are
actually fucked! There's zero environmental oversight! The
ice caps are just gonna keep melting faster and faster, and
the sea levels will keep rising, and before you know it,
Red Hook is gonna be literally underwater and everything's
gonna get wet! Wet! Wet like a drowned...

(He dives into the garbage again
and emerges with the same hotdog
as before, on which he nibbles
despondently.)

PIGEON

Y'know, for once, I think I ag-

RAT

Hold on! Wait! I never finished explaining the L shutdown
scheme! That was just the beginning! When they announce

RAT (Cont.)

that the shutdown isn't happening anymore, that's when the shit really hits the fan!

PIGEON

And what, pray tell, is so bad about shit hittin' a fan?

RAT

Each time they announce good news about the shutdown, property values balloon uncontrollably! The investors sell and make a killing! They do this over, and over, and over again! If they do it enough times, real estate prices become so unstable that everyone's too scared to buy, and then bam! The whole market collapses, New York City's economy tanks, and that's the beginning of the fucking end, man! Kiss your 401k goodbye!

PIGEON

Hah! 401k? Good one. But bro, come on, none of that announcement crap is on purpose. Cuomo's just a bonehead. I should know - I've met the guy a buncha times. For example, just last week I was mindin' my own business, peckin' at some bread outside Radio City, and guess who I see barrelin' down the street right at me like he owns the whole frickin' sidewalk? I had to haul ass just to avoid gettin' stepped on! Trust me - the guy's a real asshole. Dumb as a brick, too. Name one good thing Cuomo did. Ever. Go ahead, I'll wait right here. And don't say the "Brunch Bill".

RAT

Cuomo's not calling the shots! Open your eyes! He's just the face! If you read the literature, Cuomo hasn't made a single decision since 2012!

PIGEON

Bro, I wish. Y'know, come to think of it, that could be just the thing this city needs, y'know what I'm sayin'?

RAT

The shadow government?!

PIGEON

No, you lunatic! What this city needs is someone else callin' the shots. Hell, I could prolly do a better job myself!

RAT

Hey, that's not a bad idea! If voting weren't a thinly veiled ploy to give the government access to our personal information so that they can steal our identities for their future clone army, I'd vote for you!

PIGEON

Ah, now that's why I keep you around! But it goes without sayin', there's just one tiny little problem with that plan.

RAT

The CIA will put a hit on you?

PIGEON

Bro, for real, if I hear one more crazy-ass theory outta you today, I swear I'm gonna...okay, lemme spell it out for ya. Look at me, bro.

(He flaps his wings a few times.)

Appearances matter in politics. People would assume that I can't do the job. They wouldn't vote for me. Just because I'm...y'know...

RAT

A bird?

PIGEON

No, you dummy! I'm a scruffy, working-class guy who's never done politics a day in his life!

RAT

That could be a good thing! The sheeple might vote for you if they trust you. Or at least, if they trust you more than the other guy.

PIGEON

Or girl! Nixon's tryin' to take down King Cuomo, remember?

RAT

Richard Nixon's been dead for twenty-four years, man.

PIGEON

Do you ever read the actual frickin' news? Cynthia Nixon!

RAT

Hey, I've been reading The Post every day for the last six months!

PIGEON

That's my point.

RAT

I read The Observer, too, you know!

PIGEON

First of all, you literally live under a copy of The Observer that is so old it's gonna turn two in exactly two months, and that, my friend, does not count as "reading The Observer". Second of all, try pickin' up The Daily News for a change, bro.

RAT

The Daily News?! You don't actually believe that stuff, do you? Even Billy Joel warned us about it! And I quote, "The New York Times, the Daily News / It comes down to reality / and it's fine with me / 'cause I've let it slide"

PIGEON

I mean, it can be a little sensationalist, sure, but come on, it's the paper of the people! Besides, to be perfectly honest, I'm more of a Village Voice guy, myself. I read The Daily News mostly just to make sure I stay as ahead of the curve as possible when it comes to important events in the crazy world of sports.

(A football flies into the
garbage can, knocking it over.
RAT scurries out, and PIGEON
becomes airborne.)

RAT

(Running away, stage left.)
Ahhh!!! I told you, man!!!

PIGEON

(Flying away, stage right.)
Alright, take it easy, little guy! See ya tomorrow!

(RAT exits stage left.
PIGEON exits stage right.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IScene 2

SETTING: We are in front of the stoop of a very run-down building. There are discarded bottles and cans on its steps. A seated man can be seen through the first-floor window. It is morning.

AT RISE: Sounds of a news program can be heard through the window. PIGEON enters from stage right, and lands on the stoop, in front of the door.

BRITTANY LOOPER

I'm Brittany Looper, and you're watching...JKLMNY, New York's most trusted news source. This just in! Less than twenty-four hours ago, former Sex and the City star and gubernatorial hopeful Cynthia Nixon was seen ordering...you're going to want to sit down for this...lox, red onions, capers, tomato, and cream cheese...on a cinnamon bagel. Can you believe that?

SEATED MAN

(To the T.V.)

Dumb fuckin' bitch!

BRITTANY LOOPER

Nixon was at Zabar's, which, in this newscaster's opinion, should not have permitted the order...in the first place. And now, we turn to our man on the street, Philip Broderick, in a very special election-themed edition of...Phil Us In.

PHILIP BRODERICK

Sir, who will you be voting for in the election this Thursday?

UNCOOPERATIVE MAN

I'm sorry, I don't want any.

PHILIP BRODERICK

We'd just like to know: will you be voting for Andrew Cuomo, Cynthia Nixon, or perhaps another can-

UNCOOPERATIVE MAN

(Sounding far away)

Have a good day!

PHILIP BRODERICK

Excuse me, ma'am, who will you be voting for in the election this Thursday?

ELDERLY WOMAN

Is this being filmed?

PHILIP BRODERICK

Yes.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Is this Sixty Minutes?

PHILIP BRODERICK

No, I'm with JKLMNY, New York's most trusted news source.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Oh! Is this Cash Cab?

PHILIP BRODERICK

No ma'am, I'm Philip Broderick, and you're on Phil Us In.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Okay well am I going to be compensated for this?

PHILIP BRODERICK

Haha, well I wish we could, but no, we just want your opinion on the primary election.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Is this a prank show? Is someone going to jump out and spook me?

PHILIP BRODERICK

I'm afraid not, ma'am. So tell us: who do you think is best-suited to be governor, and why?

ELDERLY WOMAN

I'm sorry, I really must be going, I'm late for...for an appointment. I'm going to be very late. I'm already late. Thank you, goodbye.

PHILIP BRODERICK

But wait, we just want to know if you'll vote for Nixon or Cuomo!

ELDERLY WOMAN

Oh, well why didn't you say so? I'm going to vote for Mario Cuomo, as I always do.

PHILIP BRODERICK

(Tiredly)

Pardon me, miss, could you please tell our viewers who you plan on voting for in the election this Thursday?

YOUNG WOMAN

What election?

PHILIP BRODERICK

The gubernatorial election, miss.

YOUNG WOMAN

And that is an election for...?

PHILIP BRODERICK

For governor.

YOUNG WOMAN

Governor of what?

PHILIP BRODERICK

New York State.

YOUNG WOMAN

Um, I guess it depends.

PHILIP BRODERICK

Ah, you mean it depends on what you find out after you do some last-minute research? I'm sure plenty of busybody New Yorkers are in the exact same boat as you! It's hard to keep up with all the issues surrounding this race, so it's not surprising that you haven't made up your mind yet.

YOUNG WOMAN

No, it depends on who's running.

PHILIP BRODERICK

Oh. Well, there's the incumbent Andrew Cuomo, and the challenger with the most support right now is Cynthia Nixon.

YOUNG WOMAN

Yeah, I don't really know much about either one of them, but I'm definitely gonna vote for the democrat. That's Nixon, right?

PHILIP BRODERICK

They're both members of the Democratic party.

YOUNG WOMAN

Weird. What's the difference between them?

PHILIP BRODERICK

For starters, Cuomo is running on the tickets of the Independence Party and the Women's Equality Party, while Nixon is running on the ticket of the Working Families Party.

YOUNG WOMAN

But I thought you said they were members of the Democratic party? So how can Cuomo be in three parties? That doesn't sound, like, fair. Anyway, I guess I have to change my vote to Cuomo now.

PHILIP BRODERICK

Why is that?

YOUNG WOMAN

I mean, you said he's fighting for women's equality and I think that's a good thing, because I'm really into women's equality, you know?

PHILIP BRODERICK

Women's equality truly is important, although on a technical note, I didn't say that Cuomo was fighting for it, just that he's been endorsed by the Women's Equality Party. And to be clear, Cynthia Nixon is a woman. Uh, but it's great that you're passionate about that particular issue! Are there any other issues that you value as a constituent?

YOUNG WOMAN

As a what?

PHILIP BRODERICK

As a voter.

YOUNG WOMAN

I guess making the trains run better? Yeah, that'd be nice.

PHILIP BRODERICK

Haha, well, I think you're speaking for all of us there! So, what would you say to the critics who hold Cuomo personally accountable for the current state of the subway system?

YOUNG WOMAN

Um, wait, the subway delays are Cuomo's fault? Sorry, I didn't know. Okay, I'm gonna change my vote back to Nixon, then. Women's equality can wait.

PHILIP BRODERICK

Well, I can see you're really weighing your options here! Now, do you mind if I ask how you feel about the fact that Nixon has never held any public office in her entire life, and has also never worked in government?

YOUNG WOMAN

Um, really? How was she even allowed to run? Aren't there, like, requirements? I can't even get a stupid unpaid internship without five years' experience in a related field! On second thought, fuck it, I'll just vote for Cuomo. I mean, they're both democrats anyway, so, at the end of the day, I guess it doesn't matter who I vote for. I think that's a good thing.

PHILIP BRODERICK

(As though rehearsed countless times.)

Well, that's all the time we have today on Phil Us In, so consider yourselves...Philled In. Back to you, Brittany.

(SEATED MAN turns off the T.V.)

PIGEON

(He coos despondently.)

Things do not look good for this city.

(He paces back and forth.)

People need someone they can trust. Well, at least...

(He stops.)

PIGEON (Cont.)

Someone they can trust more than the other guy. Or girl.

(SEATED MAN throws a beer bottle out of the window. PIGEON issues a frightful "oorhh!" as he narrowly avoids the bottle by taking flight. He flies away, exiting stage right.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IScene 3

SETTING: We are outside a dingy sports bar. It is nighttime. RAT is inside a gutter in front of the bar, while PIGEON is on the road facing him.

AT RISE: PIGEON flaps his wings energetically.

PIGEON

(He coos confidently.)

I'm just sayin', maybe I'd have a shot after all! Reason number one: I ain't got bad press like Nixon and Cuomo do. Nixon got caught eatin' a cinnamon lox bagel, for cryin' out loud! That is one headline I ain't never gonna be in. You know me! I mean, could you even imagine me eatin' somethin' as frickin' nasty as that? No way, bro. And Cuomo's got that habit of offendin' people every time he opens that big, dumb mouth of his, like when he said Obama couldn't "shuck and jive" at a press conference. What a clown! Again, not exactly somethin' I need to worry about. Have I ever put my foot in my mouth? No. Reason number two: I actually give a rat's ass-

RAT

Hey!

PIGEON

Sorry little guy, you know what I mean. What I'm tryna say is that I actually care about the issues that matter to people. And reason number three: I know this city better than anyone. As for the other parts of New York...I figure they're prolly not that important. I mean, how many people could possibly live there anyway, y'know what I'm sayin'?

RAT

That's crazy talk! You can't be governor of New York! Are you drunk or something?

PIGEON

Yeah, I've had a couple...so what? What are you, high?

RAT

Yes! Okay, look.

RAT (Cont.)

(He inhales deeply.)

Even if you could pull it off, have you thought about what it would cost you? Money is one thing, but what about your privacy, man? Once you're in the public eye, you'll have to give up on ever keeping any of your personal stuff a secret! I mean, if you've kept up with the literature, you know that none of your personal stuff is a secret anyway, since every city bus is equipped with ten thousand tiny cameras all transmitting in real-time to the cloud...but politics is different! People are gonna be actively trying to find dirt on you! And if they can't, they'll just make it up! Believe me, I can spy a fake story a mile away, and they're everywhere these days!

PIGEON

That's alright, I ain't got nothin' to hide. I'm a scruffy, working-class guy, remember? With me, what you see is what you get, y'know what I'm sayin'? Hah, I've basically got this whole campaign thing all figured out already! Politics is frickin' easy, bro! I mean, if a bonehead like Cuomo can do it, so can I!

RAT

So, what is your plan?

PIGEON

First thing's first. We're gonna need lotsa help.

RAT

We?!

(He retreats down the gutter,
out of sight.)

PIGEON

Yes. We! Come on, little guy, you think I can take down King Cuomo without you? I gotta say, I dunno if half the shit you say is even true, but even if it is only half, you'd still be more informed about New York City politics than almost anyone I know!

RAT

Almost?!

(He returns from within the
gutter.)

PIGEON

Yeah, bro. Almost. Wait'll you meet my niece. She just graduated summa cum laude from NYU with a dual Master's degree in political science and marketing! I'm tellin' you, she is the real deal. She's a frickin' genius, for sure!

RAT

NYU?!

PIGEON

What, is NYU run by the lizard people from Uranus?

RAT

No, it's just got a really prestigious graduate studies program. I'm genuinely impressed!

PIGEON

Oh. Alright then, let's get frickin' started, yeah?

RAT

Yeah! Let's overthrow the government!

PIGEON

Bro, for the last time-

(A city bus suddenly enters from stage right and heads right towards PIGEON and RAT.)

RAT

Ahh! Cuomo's surveillance goons!

PIGEON

Frickin' bus! It's three minutes early for cryin' out loud!

(Avoiding the bus, RAT scurries back into the gutter while PIGEON takes flight and exits stage left.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IScene 4

SETTING: We are outside a Starbucks. It is morning. PIGEON, PIGEON'S NIECE, and RAT are atop a bus stop.

AT RISE: PIGEON'S NIECE flaps her wings energetically.

PIGEON'S NIECE

(She coos angrily.)

There is absolutely no way you can win the primary for...I can't believe I'm even saying this...for governor of New York State. If you were to launch your so-called campaign, it would, at best, have no measurable impact on your public persona, or lack thereof. Meaning, not a single person would even know your name, let alone support you for governor, of all things. And at worst it would make a mockery of the entire system, you included. You'd be the biggest laughing stock since the disaster known as the Rent Is Too Damn High Party!

RAT

Hey, those guys were brilliant! By lowering the rent, they could've crashed the global m-

PIGEON

Not now, bro. And sweetie, come on! You don't really mean that, right? After all, it's your uncle we're talkin' about here! You know me! And hey, if we launch the campaign today, Pigeon for Governor, I'll at least have a shot!

PIGEON'S NIECE

No. You won't. And don't get it twisted - I know you very well. In fact, I'd be more inclined to believe you had a shot if I didn't know you at all. In any case, I'm going to spell this out for you, because apparently nobody else you've consulted has had the decency to do so. You have zero experience, the primary is in two days, and you want to launch a campaign on nine-eleven. Just let that sink in.

PIGEON

Well, I hate to break it to you, but Cynthia Nixon doesn't have any experience either.

PIGEON'S NIECE

I'm sorry. What? Cynthia Nixon was one of two people to architect De Blasio's successful 2013 mayoral campaign, and her advocacy work supporting public education, women's health, and LGBTQ+ rights has been recognized with awards from Yale University and the largest LGBTQ+ political lobbying organization in the country.

PIGEON

Hey, that may be true, but I have got an advantage over her.

PIGEON'S NIECE

Okay, I'll peck.

(She sighs hopelessly.)

What advantage do you hold over Cynthia Nixon in a race that you have not even yet entered?

PIGEON

Ain't nobody gonna catch this guy eatin' no frickin' nasty cinnamon bagel with lox!

PIGEON'S NIECE

Alright, I'm going to humor you, but only because you're my uncle. Getting more votes than Cynthia Nixon will not win you this election, so just forget about her for a second, okay? Your focus should be on the incumbent: Andrew Cuomo. So tell me...how on earth are you going to defeat Andrew Cuomo's political machine?

PIGEON

Listen, most New Yorkers hate Andy Cuomo's guts, which says a lot, 'cause New Yorkers are the best in the world at takin' somethin' completely crappy and pretendin' it ain't, y'know what I'm sayin'?

PIGEON'S NIECE

So, you're telling me that because Cynthia Nixon ate a bagel, and Andrew Cuomo has a low approval rating, you, a pigeon, should be governor of New York State. Did I follow your argument correctly?

PIGEON

That ain't how we're gonna sell it! I'm not a pigeon - I'm a scruffy, working-class guy who you can trust more than the other guy. Or girl.

PIGEON'S NIECE

And who in their right mind would actually vote for you?

RAT

I would!

PIGEON'S NIECE

That's my point. You two are basically an echo chamber! I mean, what is your platform even?

PIGEON

To fix the damn subway, for sure!

PIGEON'S NIECE

And?

RAT

To oust the puppet known as Andrew Mark Cuomo!

PIGEON'S NIECE

I can't. I just can't.

PIGEON

Look, I didn't wanna say this up-front, but you're gonna have to.

PIGEON'S NIECE

Oh, you've got more breaking news for me? This has gotta be good.

PIGEON

Your mother and I were talkin' the other day, y'know what I'm sayin'?

PIGEON'S NIECE

(Terrified)

Oh god, you brought my mom into this?

PIGEON

Yeah, I mean, we are family after all, right? I'm not gonna run for governor without tellin' my sister!

PIGEON'S NIECE

(With great trepidation)

So, what exactly did she say?

PIGEON

To be perfectly honest, she begged me to give you a job on the campaign. In fact, she said it's a good thing I decided to run, because she was about stop payin' your rent if you didn't get a job by next month.

PIGEON'S NIECE

Hey, it's hard out there! I can't even get a stupid unpaid internship without five years' experience in a related field!

PIGEON

So I've heard! Anyway, whaddya say? You can be my campaign director!

PIGEON'S NIECE

It sounds like I don't have a choice. Please don't tell me I have to work with him, though.

(She points at RAT.)

PIGEON

Come on, have you ever heard of a campaign where the director didn't work alongside the constituency organizer?

RAT

(Chewing on a hotdog)

Yeah, I need some help with my plan for gaining the support of local anarchist groups!

PIGEON'S NIECE

Are you serious? Also, ew, how did a hotdog get on top of a bus stop? Actually, never mind. I really don't want to know.

(To PIGEON)

Far more pressing is the issue of getting you on a ballot. It takes 15,000 signatures.

PIGEON

That ain't so bad!

PIGEON'S NIECE

And the due date is...

(She pulls out a smartphone and begins typing on it.)

...two months ago.

PIGEON

Oh. Crap.

PIGEON'S NIECE

Yeah, crap is right. But hey, maybe next election cycle? It's only four years away!

PIGEON

Eh, forget about it. We'll probably all be dead by then anyway.

RAT

Because as the earth's temperature rises due to global warming, all the concrete in the city will absorb the sun's rays and trap tons of heat, making it impossible for any living thing to survive?

PIGEON

Nah. My life expectancy is like, five years, give or take. And yours is about one year, bro.

RAT

That's true.

PIGEON

Yeah, well, whaddya gonna do?

(A hawk suddenly swoops in,
grabs PIGEON'S NIECE, and
flies off.)

PIGEON

Oh for fuck's sake!

RAT

Oh my god!

PIGEON

Well, I hate to say it, but at least now I don't have to worry about her mentionin' any of this campaign stuff to the family. I didn't actually talk about it with my sister, y'know. She'd have been a real pain in the ass about it.

RAT

Wow. You would've made a great governor.

PIGEON

Thanks, little guy. That means a lot to me. Alright, we'd better head out before that frickin' hawk comes back for dessert, y'know what I'm sayin'? Come on, let's go catch the L while we still can.

RAT

You don't have to tell me twice!

(RAT climbs off the bus stop.
He and PIGEON exit stage right.)

(BLACKOUT)

(THE END)