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Metropolitan Diary

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Dear Diary:

I was in line to renew my passport at the main post office in Manhattan just before Thanksgiving. I watched two postal employees approaching customers, asking them something, and everyone shaking their heads, “No.”

As I was standing there, I noticed that a recording of “Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow” was playing over and over. And over and over and over.

There was paperwork to fill out, and I tried to ignore that song playing on and on and on. Those two employees continued to approach people, who continued to shake their heads, “No.”

By now I was half driven mad by that song. I called the two employees over and asked how they kept their sanity with the same song playing over and over again.

They told me they had just gotten the new holiday CD in, and it was for sale at every window, and they were asking customers if they’d like to buy it. They didn’t notice that the same song was playing. I guess it solved the mystery why nobody wanted to buy a holiday CD.

The guy told me it was a new CD player and he wasn’t sure how to work it. He ran inside, hit a button and — Hallelujah! — Nat King Cole came on singing “Chestnuts roasting on an open fire ...”

There’s no telling how many people I saved from losing their sanity. You’re welcome, New York. [Christine Lavin](#)