

The Responsibility Poem

by Charles Osgood

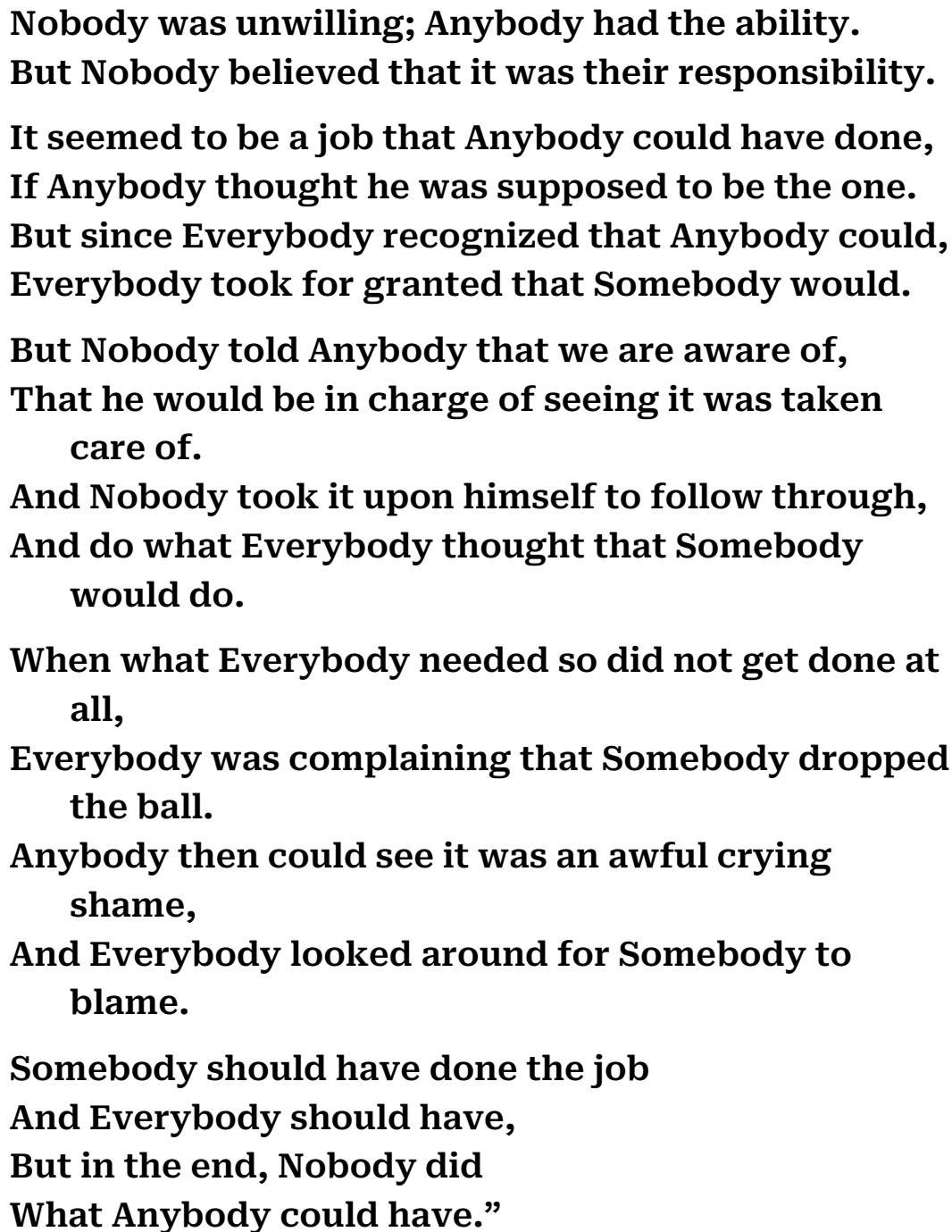
<https://www.organizationbuilders.com/content1/responsibilitypoem>

Condensed Version

“There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody couldn’t do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.”

Full Version

“There was a most important job that needed to be done,
And no reason not to do it, there was absolutely none.
But in vital matters such as this, the thing you have to ask
Is who exactly will it be who’ll carry out the task.
Anybody could have told you that Everybody knew
That this was something Somebody would surely have to do.



**Nobody was unwilling; Anybody had the ability.
But Nobody believed that it was their responsibility.
It seemed to be a job that Anybody could have done,
If Anybody thought he was supposed to be the one.
But since Everybody recognized that Anybody could,
Everybody took for granted that Somebody would.
But Nobody told Anybody that we are aware of,
That he would be in charge of seeing it was taken
care of.
And Nobody took it upon himself to follow through,
And do what Everybody thought that Somebody
would do.
When what Everybody needed so did not get done at
all,
Everybody was complaining that Somebody dropped
the ball.
Anybody then could see it was an awful crying
shame,
And Everybody looked around for Somebody to
blame.
Somebody should have done the job
And Everybody should have,
But in the end, Nobody did
What Anybody could have.”**