

## It's mid-afternoon on New Year's Eve, and Times Square is already my worst nightmare

By Abby Ohlheiser December 31, 2014

"Are you going to Times Square to see the ball drop" is a question that every New York resident is asked in late December. The answer is almost always no. I lived in New York for four years, and I never went; plenty of people who have spent lifetimes in the city have not been to Times Square on New Year's Eve.

Here is why. The Times Square official Twitter account posted the following photo at noon, or 12 hours before the start of 2015.

Look at all those people, willing to wait without relief for hours just to say they were there. Terrible. Instagram user NYCMW gave an aerial view of the square at around the same time:

(The last photo set comes from [EarthCam](#). Yes, you can livestream just how much Times Square has become my personal nightmare of crowded, enthusiastic strangers, [here](#))

It will get worse before it gets better: Officials anticipate a crowd of more than 1 million people tonight.

Anyway, remain indoors.

