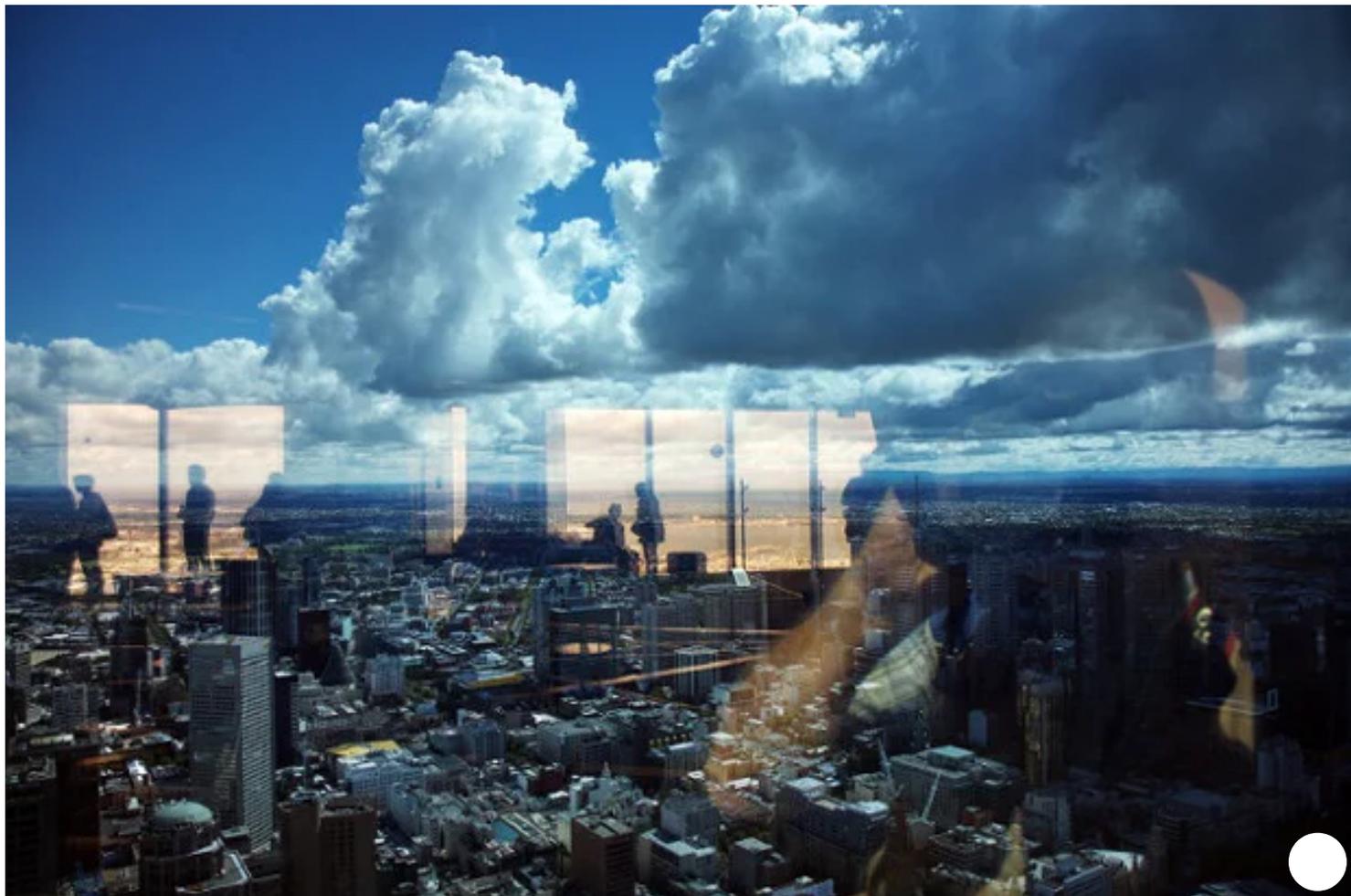


# The Guardian



## A climate change poem for today: A Language of Change by David Sargeant

**UK poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy curates a by various authors on the theme of climate change**

Thu 4 Jun 2015 06.05 EDT

*'as late capitalism writhed in its internal decision concerning whether to destroy Earth's biosphere or change its rules'*

- Kim Stanley Robinson

We're sat by the ocean and this  
could be a love poem; but that lullaby murderer  
refuses each name I give it  
and the icebergs seep into our sandwiches,  
translated by carbon magic. And even this might be  
to say too much. But the muse of poetry

has told me to be more clear - *and don't*,  
s/he said, *for the love of God, please, screw things up.*  
*Ambiguous*, I didn't reply; as we're sat  
by the ocean and I could make it  
anything you wanted, for this moment  
of speaking - but we have made it  
something forever. Together  
the weather  
is a language we can barely understand;  
but confessional experts detect  
in the senseless diktat of hurricane  
a hymning of our sins, our stupid counterpoint.  
*Love* has served its purpose, now must be  
transformed by an impersonal sequester  
of *me* into the loves I will not see,  
or touch, or in any way remember.  
Perhaps it was always like this - take my hand,  
horizon - ceding this land.

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