

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

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'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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