

# And This Is What You Claimed Was Beauty

*A Federation of Writers Scotland Patchwork Poem for National Poetry Day 2022*

Is it gettin warmer or is it wan o thae hot flushes again?  
Great Arctic chunks rumble past my island,  
humpbacks stray from the safety of kinder climes.  
Ghosts of fish swim through the plastic,  
alane an cauld.  
Parched trees in overheated air -  
the corn-god is torn and scattered,  
the vine may die before harvest.  
Fires scorch the woodlands of birch, hornbeam, ash, and pine.  
They will sing all their way, eating land  
ga tharraing air bas do chlàr-tìre phearsanta\*.

The midden we've made o the wirld;  
slum on ripe landfill,  
plastic toy, water bottle, chippy fork.  
*This is environment Granny. We're doing it at Nursery.*  
The buzz and drawl of hot city streets;  
LED trees light Sauchiehall,  
the expression of emptiness  
- I had learned to spot a fake in a trice.  
A mind the days when gairdens wur fur growin.  
The silky green blade of grass  
turns back into the quiet earth.

It's time tae mak demands:  
discover the dead, love the loveless;  
not to test impartial glaciers or think the seas benign.  
The warld trembles riddy tae tak a breath,  
but lives only as long as the last one to remember.  
The clouds above, they come and go,  
to tongue earth's hum and water's flow.

*This poem was created  
by taking a single line  
from contributions by  
the following writers:*

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Karen Macfarlane  
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*Poem collated by Andy Jackson*

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\* *'drawn across the palm of your personal map'*