

Winton on Climate

Tim Winton's written a very dark book
About how bad the world could look
In a century or maybe two
If we don't do what we should do.

It could be seen as a call to fight
Against those who think all will be right
Or the rich and powerful who will determine our
fate
By acting, if at all, far too late.

The science is conclusive, the world's going to
cook
And that's the scenario in the book
Because too little was done, no care for the
future
For those unborn, who'll face disaster.

No one will live in the tropical zone
The heat would kill them, fry their bones
Elsewhere much of year spent underground
Food hard to come by, water not found.

So what do you think happens in such state
Society collapses, mates turn on mates
Survival's the goal, at any price
Stealing, killing, many wouldn't think twice.

And, of course, there's massive migrations
Tearing at the shreds of embattled nations
We've seen in good times the hostility to
strangers
Imagine what it's like when your world is in
danger.

Law and order, it won't cope
Because government has become a joke
They didn't act to save the planet
Moral authority, they have none of it.

While all will suffer in this god-awful state
The rich and powerful will have hedged their
fate
Knowing that they can buy the best of the
worst
They've less incentive to avoid making it
worse.

Likely they don't think it will get that bad
Are they ignorant, stupid, or just mad?
Or concerned just about me, me, me
And perhaps those in their family tree.

In Tim Winton's book memories are long
And the descendants of those who've caused
this wrong
Are hunted down, put to the knife
It's a bit like a life for a life.

Tim's gloom might be an overreaction
But even if not it's a call to action
Those with power should not escape
Their responsibility for determining our fate.

Tim didn't quite go there, but the story could go
After all have died from the sun's relentless
glow
Solar powered humanoids to which we've
given brains
Will inherit the earth, what a bloody shame.

Kevin Davis
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