

Dark World

And 4 Other Apocalyptic Poems By

Katy Bennett

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In loving memory of Nan and Grandad

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# Dark World

We squirm through this dark world  
In our mass of millions  
But we crawl alone,  
Hearts weighed down with our emotions  
That only we as individuals can understand.

Eaten up by this twisted planet  
Writhing in our human pain and self-pity.  
Time flies past – the bringer of destruction,  
Leaving us quivering in its path.

From birth to death - our only destination  
Caught in our own never-ending cycle.  
Stuck on a world heading towards extinction  
Only darkness will remain.

# Earth's Fury

Here, I stand alone  
Waiting for you to find  
Me beneath the dying moon.  
The broken earth

Lays beneath my bleeding feet  
And toxic smoke has blurred  
My vision. I call out to you.

In the emptiness, the quiet streets  
Suffocate me – a total contrast  
To the chaotic noise from moments ago.

I want you to find me before the earth dies,  
Find me so I don't die alone  
On this earth-made graveyard.

I look to the skies in vain,  
For a moment I fancy  
I see your face but the wind blows  
And it's no more than a cloud  
Bloated with poisoned rain.

For the briefest instant  
I see your swollen face staring  
Up at me in the fading dusk  
And I feel your blistered fingers  
Slipping from my grasp.

I remember now,  
How I brushed your fiery hair  
From your brow, how I wept as your  
Last breath parted your cracked lips.

How I fled along stone walkways  
Screams of the dying, fires  
Raging through buildings  
Forcing me faster.

Shards of glass mutilating  
My fragile flesh  
As the earth unleashed her fury  
Cleansing herself of mankind.

I stand here alone in the darkness  
Knowing you will never find me.

# Clock Of Terror

Thin hands shake  
As they mark the passage of time,  
A face full of numbers and premonition  
Gazes out across the destruction.

Black smoke stains the atmosphere  
And smouldering ashes  
Are all that remain of bodies  
Devastated by human hands.

The clock strikes a new hour.  
It's bells echo unheard  
Across a dead earth.

# City Of Eternal Snow

The train clatters along steel tracks,  
Travelling south, taking me away  
From sunshine and warmth.  
I have chosen to visit the frozen city.

Don't linger too long the guard told me  
For the eternal winter will claim you  
As her own.

I step out of the station,  
Heavy snowflakes spin to the ground.  
Abandoned cars and buses covered  
In a white blanket line the streets.

I look about me, frozen pigeons  
Sit on window sills for all eternity.  
Icicles glisten from their beaks.

I head along the high street  
My yeti boots sink into deep drifts.  
Shoppers like statues crowd bus stops,  
Bags at their feet  
Hair crystallised for all time,  
Open eyes sightless.

An old woman immortalised  
By the ceaseless snow is trapped in time.  
Her left hand clutches a tatty handbag,  
Her right hand rests against a shop's glass door.

I wonder if she was out shopping for herself  
Or buying for a grandchild. I will never know.

I continue up the street and pass the pub,  
Smokers stand on the pavement.  
Cigarettes raised to their lips,  
Watching me silently.

Two lovers united forever.  
Arms around each other,  
Lips touching. I am jealous  
For nothing can separate them.

I stand in silence,  
Letting the snow kiss my hair,  
My clothes and my eyelids.



The quiet city around me  
Is bathed in white.  
I look to the sky and scream  
Up at the clouds that lie there.

The cold is making its way  
Beneath my many layers of winter clothes.  
I cannot stop here too long  
Yet the chilling landscape is beautiful,  
Clean and innocent. Captivating.

How many other tourists have stood  
Here before me looking at a city  
Turned into a time capsule?  
Tears slide down my cheeks  
But become ice before completing their journey.

I imagine the human statues whisper  
Of warmer days. Their minds alive  
And aware inside their frozen bodies.

Yet still the snow falls.  
Flakes dance through the air  
Until they rest upon me.  
My breath leaves me  
In a heavy misty cloud.  
I have disobeyed the guard  
And stayed here too long.

# Descent

Twilight descends across the afternoon sun  
Plunging a lively city into sudden  
Darkness. Stars offer a faint  
Illumination amongst the blind street lamps.  
Two figures, man and woman, stand hand in hand,  
Only their black outlines giving  
Them substance beneath this eerie  
Veil of a freak natural phenomenon.

Fingers entwine together  
Tight and unrelenting. Hearts  
Beat side by side offering companionship  
Where eyes are blind and faces have no identity.  
The sudden night has sucked all sound into its blanket  
Even the terrified barking of dogs cannot be heard.  
A creeping dampness can be smelled in the air,  
A damp as old as time itself, a living  
Thing. A thing that is creeping  
Down from the sky, an inch every second.

Time slows, a day becomes a year  
And the crawling damp makes its way  
Along roads, streets and pavements.  
It crawls over the city dwellers,  
Creeping over the couple, hugging them  
In a time old embrace it leaves them old  
And withered, wrinkled and grey.

It moves over cars and buses  
Turning them to rust. Buildings  
Are left crumbling and food  
Turns to rot. Time continues  
To pass leaving nothing untouched.

## About The Author



Katy Bennett began writing horror fiction and poetry under the pseudonym Karen James. Her work appeared in the Chimeraworld 2 anthology and at The Dark Krypt. After a long hiatus from writing, she has dropped the penname and launched a new web site and a newsletter - Dark Meter - focusing on horror poetry at [www.katybennett.co.uk](http://www.katybennett.co.uk)

She has released Dark World to celebrate a return to writing.