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*Daughter of bad times.*

Allen and Unwin, Australia.

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<https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/fiction/Daughter-of-Bad-Times-Rohan-Wilson-9781760529130>

# Daughter of Bad Times

(research statement)

NPA3 Original Creative Work: Textual

Rohan Wilson



### ***Research Background***

Climate fiction—literature dealing explicitly with anthropogenic climate change—gives insight into the ethical and social ramifications of this unparalleled environmental crisis. But writing about climate change often means engaging with the problem at a global level, where countries like the Maldives face inundation from rising sea levels. Writers who are crossing cultural boundaries and portraying cultures that are profoundly unfamiliar must learn to become adept at being fully present in these other cultures.

### ***Research Contribution***

*Daughter of Bad Times* arose out of the complexities I faced when writing a novel about sea-level rise. In order to minimise the risk of epistemic violence, I drew on the work of Kelly Oliver and Marcia Langton and their notion of bearing witness to construct an intellectual model to guide the task of writing across cultural boundaries in the Anthropocene era. Witnessing means listening, acknowledging, and responding to others in a way that is fully present and engaged. This model suggests a way forward for writers preparing to engage with other cultures in climate fiction.

### ***Research significance***

*Daughter of Bad Times* is significant for its portrayal of one of the central challenges posed by climate change – forced migration. It's value is attested by the following indicators:

- \$49,500 Australia Council for Arts grant for an individual project in 2015.
- \$12,000 Arts Tasmania grant for an individual project in 2014.
- Publication with international publisher, Allen and Unwin.
- Shortlisting for Fiction Book of the Year and People's Choice awards at the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards, 2019.

