

Narrating Eco-Anxiety: Climate Change, Rural Identity, and Environmental Consciousness in Contemporary Climate Fiction

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Abstract: *Climate change has increasingly transformed from a distant environmental concern into a lived psychological and cultural crisis. Contemporary literature has responded to this shift by emerging climate fiction, or “cli-fi,” a genre that explores the emotional, social, and ethical consequences of ecological instability. This paper examines the representation of eco-anxiety in modern climate fiction with particular reference to Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver. Through the lens of ecocriticism, the study analyzes how environmental disruption reshapes rural identity, gender consciousness, and socio-economic realities. The paper argues that climate fiction translates scientific discourse into personal narrative, thereby making global warming emotionally tangible. By portraying climate change not as an abstract catastrophe but as an intimate transformation, Kingsolver’s novel demonstrates how eco-anxiety becomes both a psychological condition and a catalyst for awareness. Ultimately, the study contends that contemporary climate fiction functions as a cultural intervention that redefines humanity’s relationship with nature in the twenty-first century.*

Keywords: Climate Fiction, Eco-Anxiety, Ecocriticism, Environmental Crisis, Rural Identity, Barbara Kingsolver

