

We need a better song to sing

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The [Guardian features](#) an interview by John Harris with Caroline Lucas MP this morning.

I've known Caroline for almost twenty years now. We are both members of the Green New Deal Group that created the concept of that name, and still works on it.

In the interview reference is made to Caroline's new book, out last week (and I have not read it as yet). The most telling paragraph is:

[The] book ... comes close to suggesting that the left should adopt a completely new mindset. "It's not enough to have technocratic answers," she insists. "You've got to speak to people's emotions and tell compelling stories. And I don't think we on the left are very good at doing that. And so part of this is about reclaiming the power of story and saying that the right must not have complete carte blanche when it comes to choosing the stories to tell about England. Unless we get on the pitch and start telling our own, we lose a way of reaching people that is incredibly resonant and important."

I completely agree. I describe this as there being the need to find a new song to sing.

Reeves, et al, might think the election can be won by citing fiscal rules, privatisation plans and tweaks they will make. But all of those accept that the existing political narratives will continue unbroken. They can't. They have to change, because people know they no longer work. That is glaringly obvious, it seems, to everyone but the supposed grown-ups in the room, who are working like fury to deny it.

When will Labour get that? Not ever at their current rate. And that explains the mess we are in. Until we have a better song to sing that explains the world as it not only is but reconciles it with how we think it must be (because there are constraints, most especially in the form of climate, in the real world) then we cannot have hope. And very few politicians are delivering that right now.