

The main character is an Irishwoman, Deirdre, whose husband decided to move the family to Australia with the yet unfulfilled promise of making them rich in the Gold Rush. This disillusionment of the Australian Dream contributes to Deirdre's discomfort in her new home. She also has trouble adapting to the landscape and lifestyle she finds herself in. The scarcity and fierceness of rural Australian rain is unfamiliar, contrary to Ireland's gentle and persistent showers. On the other hand, Deirdre's daughter, Aoife, finds the rain a comforting reminder of home. However, her comfort is dangerous when coupled with her unfamiliarity with the environment. Her disappearance shows the threat of a landscape when one doesn't understand it. Deirdre is more cautious, but that causes her to be dismissive and abrasive. Her supernatural perception of the situation in psychosis shows that as a colonist, her constitution is not fit for the land. Deirdre perceives Aoife's disappearance as the rain's bad deed, cursing it as the devil, though what happened was just a consequence of nature. It just happened that Australian nature was not fit for this Irish family.