

the 2009 Cana-Dixie Union

Janet Kuypers poems
read by Janet Kuypers,
C Ra McGuirt
and John Yotko
Nashville, 05/09/09

a cc&d chapbook

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A While

It's been a while
since we stopped going out
and I'm sure you're still having one night stands
and I'm sure you don't think about me
this I'm sure of

And you can tell me that
you've thought of me
and that you've missed me
and I don't care to hear your excuses anymore

I thought when someone said
they cared
they meant it
and feelings like that
aren't supposed to change
at the drop of a hat

when does it occur to
the average man
that there is in fact no feeling there
that maybe there never was feeling there

maybe you don't get to that last part
you just think, okay, I don't like this
I'm going to have to end this
maybe she won't get hurt

Well, in case no one ever told you
women do get hurt

even the strong ones

Read by Janet Kuypers 05/09/09

Better

I had all of the other useless dronings and the high school proms
I've always thought I was good enough
then someone would remind me that I might be wrong
because someone else would always come along and cover me
with their better hair, their better clothes, their pulitzer prizes
Wow

I must really need all that stuff those people have
i must want that

some people always had the better cars
with the nice red stripe down the side
or maybe better shoes or better clothes or a better date

doesn't it just suck how people can be the biggest jerks in their
day to day life to people they don't even know

isn't it funny how these people are invariably the ones
who have the money from the parents or they marry people with money
and their life is spent in this plush heaven

And then there's you or me, someone who has always tried to do well
and they never have enough money or the right clothes
or the wrong kind of car
I guess some people just have a run of bad luck

Read by Janet Kuypers 05/09/09

Cry To Be Held

I cry to be held
But you don't seem to
See my tears

I'm starting to feel
More alone with you
than without you

Me? Get serious?
Oh, I never do that
too much chance to pain

And yet I was trapped
like an animal in a cage

I fastened the lock myself

And now I only
cry to be held

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Do That For Me Then

Is there someone around
who is designed to tell everyone
what the problems are, and what you
have to do to solve them

people
like that would have been found
a while ago, if they existed

there would be no more
violence, there would be
a loving caring feeling among
people of different beliefs

maybe people
wouldn't have such strong beliefs

That's where the problems
come from
The problems come
from having ideas, having theories,
thinking they're the right ideas,

and then acting on those ideas
without checking your premises to
see if they were even the right ideas

I've done that

I've hoped, maybe it
wasn't exactly hope, but I thought,

that everything would fall into place
and everything would have a happy
ending for me
I've discovered that
after all of these years those happy
endings haven't come around, and that

there is no reason to have hope

But on some levels it's true
People want someone to deliver flowers
to them, for no reason, other than because
you wouldn't expect it and it would
be nice
People could say something
nice to you, out of the blue, to
brighten your day

Wouldn't it be nice if someone you knew
came up to you to tell you they loved you?
I mean, you know they love you
but it's nice to hear

I think men don't get that
They don't remember that
women like nice things for them, even if
it's not expensive
if it's not
something they'd normally think to do

I like nice things done for me
I want someone to call me when they
said they would

I want someone to
tell me I'm worth something

I've wanted that for years

Read by Janet Kuypers 05/09/09

Good Things Have Happened to Me Too

I've wanted to bawl my eyes out
but I don't think I have the emotion in me any longer.
My share of bad things have happened to me,
and I can say

that good things have happened to me too
But
when you're like me all you can think about is

the bad stuff, and you can fixate on that,
it doesn't matter how many months go by,

or years, or whatever, but you get my point

My point is that the bad stuff is there,
and there's nothing you're going to be able to do to get rid
of the bad stuff
You can try to deal with it

with a good attitude, or you can have a temper-tantrum
every time something bad happens to you,
or you can try to take all the bad stuff for as long as you can

I don't know how you deal with that pain
I suppose
that bawling your eyes out with a problem would help
for now, but the problem is not going to get any
easier just because you cry

No, the bad stuff doesn't go away
The key is
to be able to figure out
how to make all of the bad stuff go away,
like it was never there in the first place
Well,

I don't know if anyone has been able to

figure that out yet

I suppose there has to be some way
to make yourself just blink and then you can forget
all the bad stuff

People for the most part have been
able to do that most of their lives

Unless they kill themselves first, but
I'm not even going to go there

That just seems
like too touchy of a subject to even come near.

So I guess the burning question
is to figure out how to make all the bad stuff
go away, like it was never there in the first place

Well, it seems that no one so far has
come up with a way to figure out how to do that

If anyone has an idea, let me know. Thanks.

a Great American

and when listening to Sean Hannity,
one of the Republican's icons in punditry,
I hear him say to all veterans,
"you're a great American."
then other people
later on his show
would say that he is a great American

and it becomes like a contest sometimes
where everyone who supports
Sean Hannity on his show
is calling each other a great American

and I'm thinking:
he thanks veterans
because they fought in a war
and protected our country.
and I'm thinking,
we thank people
for finding a loophole to legally kill people,
we thank people for going through hell
in a current war that we don't support

a war not defending our country
but killing our people nonetheless

Hell, people now aren't even in a war
only Congress can declare a war
and we haven't been in an actual war
since World War Two

but I'm sure they're great Americans
because they fought
in these President-proclaimed wars

yeah, Sean Hannity thanks veterans
because they fought in a war
and protected our country

but he also calls anyone a great American
only because they agree with him

you can elevate anyone to that tall pedestal
idolize them, call them a great American
as long as they support the Bush kakistocracy

hey, we're Americans,
we've proclaimed ourselves to be the best
we don't idolize anyone
I think it's time we all start thinking
 the Sean Hannity way
and be great Americans again

Read by both Janet Kuypers and C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Hasn't Happened Yet

I think there's so much about me that's ugly

and people can tell me otherwise
people can give me compliments

and the compliments are never enough
it's never what i want to hear

it would be nice if the right someone
came along and told me everything
I needed to hear

but that hasn't happened yet

people keep trying to make me feel better
they talk about the sunrises and the
stars in the sky and the babbling brook
that is a couple of blocks from my house
but I don't see those things

I never do
when I look right over my shoulder
to see the beauty in things
well, I never get to the beauty part

I never get there

so no, I don't know what the answers are
and I don't know how to make things better for me
things haven't gotten better yet
and I don't know what else I'm supposed to do

I guess my only choice is to keep trying

Read by Janet Kuypers 05/09/09

Learn To Do That Too

Maybe there isn't
much of a chance for us
but other people get to
think about these things
other people get to have hopes
other people can function that way

so maybe I can learn
maybe I can too

Yeah, maybe I think you are cute

well, you're a cute guy, you know
and you've been judged on that before
I know that's
happened to me too

and maybe you're something
to pass the time with to me
and maybe I like
the positive attention you give me

maybe I need that, you know

I know we don't have
a lot in common
I know that on many things
we disagree
I know that you'd find
a lot of my beliefs
well, infuriating

well, maybe you still do

but maybe you've been able to shut all that off
and like me anyway
maybe that's what people do
maybe I can learn to do that too

Read by Janet Kuypers 05/09/09

this Halloween

this halloween i got a costume together
i wore a black page-boy wig,
a vinyl dress and matching vinyl boots

it was strange for me
i'm not such an outgoing person

and every time i was left alone at a bar
someone would hit on me
usually someone ugly
but i didn't tell them to leave me alone:

i gave them a fake name, a fake number

and looking back, what made the difference
was not wearing the revealing clothes
but wearing a wig, changing my identity

and it's not that i'd do it again
but i must admit
i really like being someone else
just for a little while

Read by John Yorke 05/09/09

Want That Too You Know

I think I have heightened awareness
I have this tendency to notice the details
I don't know what it is

but what I've noticed
is something other people wouldn't notice

I've noticed when you say something

in passing
and maybe you didn't
mean anything by it

well, I noticed the double meaning
and maybe you weren't trying to
give me any double meaning

maybe I'm just being too aware

maybe I want something to
work out for me

we women want that too, you know

Read by Janet Kuypers 05/09/09

When You've Only Got You

there were so many things
I wanted to believe
and there were so many things
I felt like I could trust

it's funny when people are paid off
to tell you lies
and you can trust no one
because anyone can be paid off

that's when you've only got you

and I know that can be rough sometimes
and I've managed after all these years
and I've made it just fine on my own

and then you had to come along

and maybe it was my problem to trust you
maybe I thought that
you wouldn't lie to me

I wanted to get to know you
I've gotten to know you well
working together with you
I've learned about your love of pornography
and I thought that you did it
because you were so obsessed
with your work
and you had no time for
other people too

there were many things I wanted from life
you know, some women get married
and have kids
and depend on another man
for the money
and maybe I want that
and maybe I don't
but I have to know
that someone out there
is worth it

Everything is New

“Is that what life is all about?
I’m used to feeling wanted
and wanting someone to take me
and take some control over me
because I’m tired of having the control
all to myself.”

“I don’t know what you want, woman,
and I don’t know how to ask
and you have to tell me.
If you want to keep it different,
let me do what I can,
but what do you want from me?”

“I’m sorry. I probably ramble too much.”

“I don’t talk enough, so we
balance each other out.”

“But I just want to feel
like I’m not getting old
and I want to feel like everything is new.”

“Is that what you want?”

“I think so. What more can I say? I talk too much.”

“So should it be my turn?”

Read by Janet Kuypers and C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

A beacon alone

I know I'm meant to be standing alone
I've done it all my life
and I'm fully used to the feeling
and I've been living without anyone for so long
and I wanted to let you know that I'm used to that

and I can do it on my own
and I don't need someone to help me pick up the pieces
and I don't need someone to wipe my nose
 or tell me how and when to brush my teeth
 and comb my hair and fold my clothes.
Have I said this to you before? Probably. Do I
think this needs repeating? Usually. Then no one
gets what I want and what I do. But this

is what I've been used to all my life,
this rejection, this feeling like I'm
supposed to be this way, this feeling
that there's no chance for me. You might
think it. The rest of the world does.
But let me tell you once, in the easiest
way I know how, let me tell you that I

am strong and I know what I need and I
know what to do and I've been fine on my own
all of this time. Maybe I've been just
waiting for someone to come along
and make it all better for me. Well,
maybe that's my job, to do what I've
been planning, and someone else

will notice that you don't have
to do it like everyone else. I don't know
if I'm a beacon, but it's nice to think of me
that way, whether or not it's accurate.

I don't know if I'm a beacon. But for now,

it's nice to think of me that way.

I wonder when someone will notice my
differences. I wonder when someone will think
I'm different. I wonder when someone will notice

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Two Not Mute Haikus

I

Just sit quietly.
Rapes, beatings, torture and pain.
We can beat you down.

II

You can't be quiet.
Try to fight the world's evils —
Even with just words.

A Common Acquaintance

An innocent place
turned into a lengthy stare

turned into an intimate conversation

turned into a lover

turned into my hell

turned everything we had
into nothing

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

And I Don't Care

I'm sick of people telling me
that they're glad that I'm okay

and I'm tired of people asking me
and that condescending high-pitched voice
(which is supposed to mean that they care)
how I'm doing

well, I'm fine
I'm the same I've been

I know a lot has happened to me
and I know I've gone through a lot
and I know that nothing gets better

I know, I know, it all depends on your attitude
that's what they tell me
with amazing regularity
and it doesn't do me any good

and I'm still angry
and I've still lost part of my life

and maybe in theory I'll lose more
I don't know

I don't care about the beautiful trees
that are growing outside my home
and I don't care about the chirps I hear
from the birds outside

that's not a nice way to put it, I know

but there are a lot of things I don't care about
when the beautiful things have decided
to take a turn for the worse for me

Are things getting better?
Objectively, I can say that I don't know
and I don't care

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Bad And Good

I just heard about an
unwarranted arrest for a
man who was technically a
couple of arrests in debt

One thing occurred to me
when I heard that...
there are bad people in
the world, and good people

and some people just deserve pain

So why have I been
better than good all my life?
I hope someone who is bad
can give me the answer soon

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

But It Is Cute

Every time I go to the lake
well, sometimes I take a golf cart

and sometimes I just walk there

well, every time I go to the lake
I feed the fish
and yes, I make small pieces
so that the little fish have a chance

yes, so that they have a chance
to be big fish
and eat other fish

survival of the fittest, I suppose

well, every once in a while
one big fish makes his move
he watches the little fish eat for a while
then the big fish moves quickly
and tries to eat a little fish

they move so fast

maybe they catch one
maybe they miss

but every once in a while
a little fish
in trying to get away
from the attacking big fish
well, every once in a while
a little fish
ends up at the side of the lake

out of the water
flopping around

and when I get to see that
I think to myself,
well, wait, and see
if that little fish
flops his way back into the water

which he does

you can call this scene
something like divine intervention
something like, the little fish
was strong enough to get back
into the water
and maybe
the fish was just flopping around

until it was able to breathe again

but it is cute
cruel, but cute

Read by C Ra McGuiert 05/09/09

Cocktail Hour

I remember when I was little
when dad would come home
from work, mom would always
have two gin martinis ready
for them. She'd put the glasses
in the freezer, with ice cubes
in them, an hour before he was
due home. That was their time
to sit together, talk about their
day.

Sometimes they'd joke, is it
cocktail hour yet?, and they'd
look at the time, 4:55, close
enough.

So little vermouth that some-
times they'd pour a capful of
vermouth in, swirl it around
in the glass with the ice cubes,
then pour the extra vermouth
out.

I never liked gin; the smell is
too strong. But I always think
of the end of the day when I
smell a martini.

And at restaurants, too, dad
would always order for them.
two dry martinis, on the rocks,
with a twist. You know, some
things just flow off your
tongue when you've heard them
said enough. two dry martinis,
on the rocks, with a twist.

Read by C Ra McGuiert and Janet Kuypers 05/09/09

Do I Still

it is so easy to be filled with spite
it is so easy to hold grudges
and if your memory isn't shot to Hell
it is so easy to remember the details

it's funny to think about how you convolute the world
how your brain's preceptions
are different from everyone else's

i swear to god, woman
i didn't want to go to princeton
and i don't remember wanting to apply

and you swore i wanted that
to show i was smart
to show i was good

and i swear to god i'm not that materialistic
i swear

did i want to show everyone
that being smart was easy for me
did i want to show everyone
that i was better than everyone else
did i want to prove it all
without putting the work in

do i still

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Everyone Else Does It

it's funny how you get an image
in your head as to how to want
to lead your life, and you have
these ideas, and maybe they're

not like anyone else's ideas, and
is it funny that you think this way

Well, would you get tired of
thinking that way if everyone
else thought something different

well, you probably would start
thinking differently, but what

would you do with those ideas,
once you change your ideas
for everyone else? Would you
just throw those thoughts into
the trash, into the garbage, you
could do that you know, I know
they're just your ideas, but everyone
else does that, you could do it too.

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Evil Floats

(the mind of John)

Evil floats
it is lighter than air
it will always rise to the top

Read by John Yorke 05/09/09

First

I walked to the tight rope
who has that much will
to live, to their life, to all life

that just one step could come
and they would be carried down.

I could tight rope,
I had thoughts when I
would see the tight rope walkers go
I had thoughts that they
would hold on to an extra
rope, when they should keep

their arms free. would a man
decide on a tight rope
well, decide to play it safe and
just once hold on to a rope?
I mean, if I was somebody
else, and it was just me
and that simple white light?

I would wonder if people like
that would ever get to that
place.
I wonder if I'd get to
that point, like right before
that moment, when you think you're going to fall.

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Genuinely Tired Of Looking

you want my Christmas wish
well, here it is

I have wanted things to work out for me
and not kick me in the teeth

There is so much I have wanted out of life
And there is so little that I have received

And I am getting tiered of looking
I am genuinely tired of looking

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Get Me Through My Life

there was a time tonight
when i thought you would come up to me
and acted like you had never met me before

and well, i didn't know what else to say
and so i did the same

it is strange to be in a place
you haven't been to before
because i think that's when
i see something familiar
and see something different

it is at times like that
when i try to come up with stories in my head
to get me through the days
and get me through my life

so yes, i think of you
sometimes
at times like this

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Gotten To That Part

So am I the only person
who thinks about all the unanswered questions
and am I the only one that thinks
everyone is in trouble
and that no one tries to make it better
am I the only one that thinks that way

I don't want to have to be
the only one, you know

I want someone to come along
and save the day for ME
and make MY life better somehow

because I have not figured
that part out yet

I have not learned the skill of
mastering other people's minds

I have not gotten to that part of it yet

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

hand-grenades,
chainsaws and
fireworks (oh my)

A Croatian man in January, in an attempt to salvage a hand-grenade to make firecrackers for the New Year's holiday, decided to attempt to open the hand-grenade by using a chain saw. This Croatian man died in the explosion and saw no New Year's fireworks.

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Hard as a Rock

you left me as hard as a rock
no one'll ever hurt me like that again

and you know,
screw that whole rock-paper-scissors thing
because i don't care what's on that paper
i can still bury it
 hide it from the world
 destroy it
because i'm as hard as a rock
and i can get rid of whatever that paper says
press it down before scissors can even cut it up

you see, you've done that to me
made me as hard as a rock
you've made me close myself off to the world
and now all i can do
is use my new power
to silence everyone else

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Here's Your Chance

Sometimes the most unconscious things
happen in life

Or I guess,
I should say that about
“my life,”

but then I'd sound like I was

complaining

So I have to keep it all
to myself,
and I just have to take all of
the crap that is dished out to me all
the time, and
then when I want to let my
anger out

no one wants to take the
time to listen to me

or even act like
they're listening to me

I kept my life
a secret from the rest of the world
for so many years,

and now that I feel
I have to let out my emotions and my
disgust with everything in the world
that is so wrong,
well then,
then no one
wants to take the time to be there for me

They'd rather bitch back instead of

attempt to make any attempts to help

That's my luck

I should just

get used to it

that's what the world does

everyone would rather

kick me when I'm down

Well, I'm down now

This is your chance

Go nuts

I have been told all of my life by certain
people

usually the ones that should be

considered the smart ones

well, I've been

told all of my life that I should talk more
and I should get over my problems and that
things will get better when I least expect it

Well, things aren't better, things are just
getting worse, and no one can help me
through this pain or this anger, and I want to
change so many things
in my life

and no one

will let me make any attempts

to make my life better

If I'm supposed to make a

difference in my life and I'm also not

allowed to change a god-damned thing

in my life either, then I suppose I should

just tell you all that this is your chance

and you can do with me what you will

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

How Many Times I've Done It

I wonder how long I've been like this
I wonder how long I've been forgetting things
where no one has been able to fill in the pieces for me
I wonder how many time I've gone thought this
how many times has it happened in my head

where I've had to put all the pieces back together
I wonder how many times I've done it

I wonder how crazy I'd sound
to always ask for help
for someone else
to put the pieces together for me

maybe then someone would know
what I go through and what I think
and maybe people would start to think something different of me
and maybe then people wouldn't think
i was something better

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

I'm Sure We Killed It

on the Galapagos Islands
new species of animals develop
to accommodate their immediate surroundings
and everything fits with nature

think of trees around the world:
there seems to be a tree
for the needs of every animal:
the eucalyptus and the Koala Bear,
woodpeckers to make holes in trees,
even think of the leaping and traversing of monkeys in the trees
or that even certain dead grasses are needed for locusts
animals thrive around trees producing food they can eat

in nature, every tree has its niche
and everything fills its need

unlike animals, we humans don't have a single tree:
we cut them down for building and heating our homes
we cut down rain forests to plant more orange groves
(you know, so our orange juice can taste worse, but cost less)

we cherish some for food, but destroy others:
we destroy the rain forests
which counteracts the human effect on global warming
we destroy the rain forests
that possibly possess the natural cures
for diseases that help us kill ourselves

maybe that's what we get

and maybe there once was a single tree for humans

I'm sure we killed it

Read by C Ra McGuirt 05/09/09

Is it Just Me

Is it just me
I remember how you used to be
and how you'd pay attention to me

and how you'd do nice things
and how you
wouldn't forget to call me back
or how you wouldn't forget
what was important

Is it just me
or do you do this to other people too

or do other people get used to it
do other just assume
you'll forget them

that's what people
are supposed to do now, right

Is it just me
or are you on time with
other people

or is it just me that you're ignoring

because I've been in this hole
for a while
and I've needed someone
to listen to my problems
and I've needed someone to tell me

that everything was going to be okay

and I've got no one telling
me that now

Is it just me
is there anything you can do
to help yourself
because I lost hope for you a while ago

well, I haven't lost hope

but I'm getting close

Read by C Ra McGuiert 05/09/09

It's Only The Tip

there are too many things that I want to say,
but after all these years I've forgotten how to speak

I've wanted to tell you how I feel
but I've always been afraid to do that
and I've always been afraid of looking like a fool

looking like a fool? well, I mean,
having ideas that others don't agree with

you know what I mean

well, maybe you don't, but now you see
why I haven't been able to tell you everything
and now I'm afraid that it's too late
too late for me
and now I'm going to have to live with what I know
all alone

I'll have no one to share that knowledge with

I want someone to share that knowledge with me
I want someone to spend their life with me

I know I should have wanted that before
but I'm telling you, at least I'm trying to tell you now

and I'm still afraid to tell all this to you
and this is only the tip of the ice berg

it's only the tip

Knew All Along

So my friend Joe owned this bar, and Joe was a great guy, but he had this thing against guys with motorcycles. He didn't want motorcycles in his parking lot, he didn't want anybody in leather or heavy motorcycle boots in his bar. So I thought one day I'd get him for thinking like that - so I came up with a plan. It's like this: the bar is laid out with an entrance to the left of the main entrance. So I decided I'd ride a motorcycle through his bar, with a full leather outfit on and a helmet so he couldn't see who it was, and I'd go in through the main entrance and exit at the entrance on the left. So everything was in place, I was in the parking lot, then at the front door, ready to go. Then someone opened the door for me, and for some reason when I went through the front door, I couldn't turn my wheel, and I ended up running right into his juke box. And so I tried reversing my way out of it, and I ended up running into Joe's cigarette machine. And his wife was behind the bar screaming for Joe to come out - Joe was in back and missed all of this - while I managed to maneuver my way out the door on the left before Joe ever got out there. And Joe put out rewards for information about who did this to his bar, and he swore up and down about motorcycle riders. And I couldn't tell him that it was just a joke, that I didn't mean to break all of his stuff, right? So finally, after four years, I told him at a party it was me. He said, "I knew all along."

Lava... at a Rolling Boil

no drug or alcohol evidence
was found when 24 year old
Philip Quinn lost his life
late last November.
Reporters thought drugs
or alcohol were necessary,
in order to let Philip Quinn
believe his actions were rational.
because Philip Quinn placed
a lava lamp on his kitchen burner

and turned up the heat

he was not aware that a lava lamp,
when place over an open flame
and heated,
exploded,
and a piece
of the glass -
the deadly shrapnel -
was found lodged through
Philip Quinn's heart

My

my eyes
no longer see
I close them
my hands
are numb
I no longer feel
my heart
is cold
I cannot love

My Blood

Take my blood
it is yours
Take the blood
that runs cold
through my body
and fill my veins
with the tears
I have too often
cried for you

My Wishes Come True

I wonder if my pain is always this way
I wonder if
I'm always going to be like this
I wonder if I'm always
going to function this way

I know I wish
that life was easier sometimes

well, I know I wish
for a lot of things

that doesn't mean
my wishes come true

Naivety

The naivety is over.
Now we must put our little toys away
and stop playing house.
This is the real thing,
and I won't fool around anymore.
Not with you.

You threw around the words
"I love you"
as if they were no more than water
as if you really didn't know
their value.

But this isn't a game,
and when I get hurt
kissing it
won't make it better.

No Place

Sometimes the easier answer
to getting answers

that ones tough

Sometimes you kick and you
scream for information and no one
will give you any help and you'll
have no place to turn

That's what
the world it's like, you know,

just in case you hadn't figured
it all out and in case you were
still looking for someone to help you
to save the day and magically make
everything turn better

Not Getting Better

everyone is thinking
that I'm getting better

but no one knows what it's like
no one knows what pain
I still go through

yes, I've been fighting
but I still don't see the signs

that anything is getting better

people can tell me that it is
but that doesn't do me
any good

I don't wear my glasses
even though wearing them

would make it easier to see
but I don't,

because I have to train myself
to not need them anymore

maybe that will make me better
at least that's what I think

I've wanted things to be better
for three months now

I haven't wanted to wait
for everything to get better

and now I still have to wait
and it's already past due

this getting better thing isn't fair
at least not to me, isn't

people think my vision is better

because I'm not wearing my glasses

that's a good example,
but it's not

I still can't see, but I have
to come up with a way in my

head to make it better. So
no one can see the difference.

but i still feel it. I still feel the
difference, and it's not getting better.

Not Getting Better (edited)

everyone thinks I'm getting better

but no one knows what it's like
the pain I still go through
I've been fighting but I don't see the signs
that anything is getting better

I still have to wait
it's already past due

I still can't see
I come up with a way in my
head to make it better
no one can see the difference.
but i still feel it

No There Isn't

I can stand alone
I don't need you
and you think there's
more to it than that,
but no, there isn't

well, sometimes you've
got to do what you've
got to do, and you just
get it done

when it's got
to get done, you have to
remember that people

(when actors and actresses)
who do it on television,
well, they and the
directors have no
idea how to get it done.
Well, sometimes the
world and everything kind of
shows what it's made of

and sometimes you have
to survive all the crap that's
thrown in your direction.

So sometimes it's important
to understand that I don't
need all the crutches that
people usually give

themselves, but it's true, I
don't need you, and I can
get along fine without you

three months since the
accident in the car do I
feel any different

Should the world

be now revolving
at a different pace

Or was everyone just used to the
change of the earth's speed
when it changed

as if it was something they just never
chose to think about

Was everyone just used to
the world when it
started to feel this way?

So many people go through
life with a lack of emotion,
or a lack of feeling, or a
lack of thought
And I've never been asked

to function that way
I've never
been able to just let life
go by.

Maybe life stepped on me a few times

Well, you know what I'm
getting at with these metaphors

Maybe if life is just cruel that
way maybe life is storming
away and if you happen to be
in the way, well maybe life will
just accidentally step on you on the
way out, like if life doesn't know
where it's doing when it's just

trying to leave

Well, at times
like that you just have to be
ready for a battle, maybe it's
a battle you weren't expecting to
run into in the first place, but
sometimes you just have to be ready

for a conflict like that

Even if it never comes to get you,
you have to be ready for that
potential problem, just in case.
Just in case it happens

Organic Sex Toy

a teenage boy in Knoxville, Tennessee
was found by firefighters
naked and burned in his bedroom

the boy was found nude,
with the remains of a cow's heart
attached to his genitals

Officer Hardaway found pornographic
magazine in the remains of his room,
including the underground mag "Ovid Now"

which described how to make
a sexual toy out of a cow's heart,
an electrical circuit and some batteries

this boy hooked the heart up
to a household current,
electrocuting himself

before he set his house on fire

The boy's parents were contacted
while on vacation about the incident
and have remained unavailable for comment

» » »

To check out sources,
this Knoxville Tennessee story
was reported in March
by more than one media outlet...

but a “media outlet” could be a web page,
and we wondered if it was true
because we found this story
also happened in Italy...

a coroner in Italy found what was originally
considered an unidentifiable mass
attached to a naked dead man

they later learned that this man
connected the heart of a cow, with cables,
to a 220 volt outlet.

220 volts? was this man stupid?
or are we for believing it?
so... keep searching for evidence
& be careful around outlets

the Perils of Lovemaking

this report is brought to us
by Dr. William A. Morton, Jr. MD,
a retired urologist in West Chester, Pennsylvania

Dr. Morton was called to the emergency room
because a pale 40 year old male patient there
“needed a doctor who took care of men’s troubles”

after the nurses left, the doctor removed
two or three yards of stained gauze
wrapped around his scrotum

swollen to twice the size of a grapefruit,
his tender left scrotum even had a jagged,
pus and blood filled zig-zag laceration

after seeing dark lines, the patient explained
that days earlier he injured himself in the machine shop
with a heavy-duty stapling gun

those dark lines were one-inch wallboard staples

he was admitted to the hospital,
got tetanus antitoxin, antibacterial therapy,
and pre-surgery baths

eight staples were removed during surgery and
his left testes was missing. after the surgery,
the patient told Dr. Morton the entire story.

the patient was an unmarried loner who didn’t
leave the shop for lunch with the male coworkers.
but when he was alone every day for lunch,

he would masturbate with his penis against
the canvas of a machine’s drive-belt. but one fatal day,
as he approached orgasm he got too close to the belt

it threw him in the air, an apparently took
his left testes with it. He couldn’t tell his coworkers,
so he stapled his wound and returned to work.

Pool Together Our Money

spill the beans and get it over
with - but that seems valid, like it's such

a natural thing to say
that is very physical, well,
it's something we should all know
like something we were forced

if only we could have been
strong enough to pool together
our money and tried to
beat the bidding for blood

for the next to get the damage.

when i learned,
what I learned was little.
Sometimes the most
insane people somehow
got in charge of teaching,
I'd guess that it would be
probably because they

lied their way to the
right job, but I haven't
done a lot of research
on this so I could be wrong,
but I think somehow,
somewhere, someone
was put in charge of deciding
who would learn what,

and I think those people
who really actually know
very little, decided to pull
one big joke over on the students
and the world, well, I think
that all of these
people, all the ones with no real brains to
speak of, all these people just
decided to screw up all

the good things that were
supposed to be
produced by intelligent
people in intelligent parts of
what we should think of as
the possible intelligent world.
Well, that's my story and I'm
sticking with it.

well, what I think happened
was that all of these people
with no real intelligence
decided to create a joke
or take over the world
or whatever and they
decided to make all the intelligence
they could find, and they

decided to destroy that
intelligence. There's really
no other way to explain it, other than
to just make people stupid, in a way that no one
could ever think to be
aware of
but no one would get it, and all the
stupid people would gain their

strength somehow. At
least that's my little theory.

and now, no one has the
skill to defend themselves,
much less the skill to set busy
defending anyone else. Well,
that would kind of be what
the world would be like if we lost all

intelligence, but it would kind
of also be like the way the world is
kind of like Now. Don't get busy
thinking about that idea now, let's just
figure out what we can do about it.

so this is the way that people
with no talent manage to screw

people with talent over, so that the
people without talent can rise in their
fame and everyone can suffer in the
process.

###

Pool Together Our Money (edited)

the most insane people got in charge
of teaching, they probably
lied their way to the right job
somehow, somewhere, someone
was put in charge of deciding who would learn what,
and I think those people really actually know
very little decided to pull one big joke
over on the students and the world

spill the beans and get it over with
it's something we should all know
if only we could have been strong enough
to pool together our money and tried
to beat the extracting of blood

all of these people with no real brains
decided to screw up all the good things
that were supposed to be produced by intelligent
people in intelligent parts of the world

all of these people with no real intelligence
decided to create a joke
and they decided to take all the intelligence
they could find, and they decided to destroy that

just make people stupid, in a way that no one
could ever think of
all the stupid people would gain their strength

so this is the way that people with no talent
manage to rise in their fame
and everyone can suffer in the process

no one has the skill to defend
themselves or anyone else
that is the world if we lost all intelligence

isn't that the world now

Slow Painful Death

I have to try to remember the good things
I am usually so filled with anger that
I can't help it but
I'll try

It's hard to remember the good things
When all you can think about
Are the bad things

Maybe it's just that I wanted someone
To care for me
I needed that a lot then, you know

But that wasn't a good enough reason

Looking back, I know that

It's funny how hindsight is twenty twenty
And it's funny how I was going to
Write something about you that was good

But you were are liar, and still are one
And I wasn't immune to your violence
And all of the good memories I have of you
Are clouded by your anger
And rage
And insolence
And idiocy

so I guess I can't do it this time
I have to write about things that matter to me
So I could write about how I
Want you to go through a
slow painful death

but you probably know I think that
And I probably don't need to go into that at length

Suspend My Beliefs

and I don't know what the answers
are supposed to be anymore

I'm tired of looking for the answers
sometimes, you know
and sometimes I just want someone
to come along and tell me that
everything is going to be okay

and that they are going to be there for me
and that they'll take care of me

and that they'll love me

and when i say love, I don't mean
the kind of garbage that you hear
people say to each other when they
don't even know what love is

I'm talking real love, lifetime love
the kind of love that doesn't go away

well, as I was saying, I want someone
to come along and tell me that everything
is going to be okay and that everything will
get better
and you know, just hearing someone say that
and mean it
would be enough

I'd be able to suspend my beliefs for a moment

so what should I make out of this world
what should I make out of this world that

doesn't make sense
what should I make out of it

I can hope, I suppose
but I've done that for years
and it gets me no where

this whole belief thing
in things you have no proof of

really doesn't get you anywhere
I've learned that much

So what do I want

I want someone to come along
and let me not think for a while

someone to come along
and excite me
and make me feel alive
and make me feel that I'm safe

I haven't felt that in so long

I've wanted you to be a part of my life
in so many ways
for so many years now
and I think I've wanted it
for so long
and I've never told you

well, maybe I should have told you
when you would have wanted to hear it
so many years ago

and then maybe I wouldn't feel so lonely for you
and maybe I wouldn't want so much more from you

and maybe then things would be different

the Power of the Devil

In November, a church held a pageant,
and the ending was of a battle
between God and Satan.

The church hired a stage actor
to play Satan, and true to the actor's
form, he used many special effects
to make Satan appear more realistic.
The actor used a voice shifter for a
dark and evil voice, and also used his
fire-breathing skills to make the devil
more devilish.

The dramatic show was too much
for two congregation members,
because the two had a heart attacks
during the performance. One was in
critical condition, the other died.

Thinks That Through

I wonder how many times I've gone through this.
I always want something and I never get it.
Each time it happens, I just remind myself
that I have to kill a little part of me
and just go on without what I want

There are some things we don't have
control over

How other people act is one
of the things we don't have control over
Does that mean I deserve different
treatment
Well, I think I deserve it
Apparently no one else thinks that through

I've been wanting all of the pieces

to fall into place for me
At this rate,
I'm going to have to try to put all the
pieces in place for myself
At this rate,
I'm not going to get what I want, I'm
going to always be ten years late in

having needs and wants and I'm going to
ever get them, because for my usual
problems, well, people got over that ten
tears ago

What did I want,
A happy ending?

That hasn't happened yet

I wonder if other
people think like this
I wonder if I'm
the only one who thinks like this
Will I
be the only one hurting from those same things

The Truth and Liars

I have been told so few
truths in my life, and as
more time progresses I trust
the average person less and less.

Forgive me, but some things
just call for straight-out
honesty. Seldom do I get the
chance to voice my opinion, or
speak out in opposition, or even
have my own voice.

I've let myself out of one hospital,
and want to get out of a second
one, by liars and people who
try to deceive for a living. Believe
me, I've seen it so many times,
that sometimes it just gets more
simple to tell apart the liars
from the people who tell truths.

The truth-tellers are very, very
difficult to find in this day
and age. When you give a
little power to a liar you'll be
faced with a lifetime of fighting
and failures. Well, when
you're a person faced with
liars, well let's just say that
the battle to win is almost impossible.

For a good part of my life I've dealt with liars. Or should I say, I think that all of my life, when I've been aware of what people are capable of, well, let's just say that as long as I can remember, well, let's just say that I have never been a better part of a liar's life.

No one seems to know how to earn a person feeling trust. It's a difficult job to do with me. People often fail, if they ever tried.

I suppose that an average person who tried to earn my trust would probably not succeed at it. Coming from someone who knows the truth, someone who thinks, let me say it for myself.

I've lived through good news and bad news. I've been through young people's deaths, old people's deaths. I've seen people in constant pain. I've seen no real attempts done by anyone to help me - ever. I have seen - and lived through both happiness and sadness. I have succeeded at the things I have tried. I have won when I have had to. I'm a ruthless winner. That comes with what I know.

I have cried for so many people that I can't even tell you. I wonder if that many tears have been shed over me.

I wonder if anyone, any -
where, has felt anything about me.

This year I was hit be a few
cars. I was driving my car.
My car is now useless, after the
accident. I was in a coma,
unconscious for 1 to 2 weeks.

I don't remember the accident.
This is the story from what others
have told me, since my recovery.

Right now I hear the chatter of 2
waitresses at the front of this
office. I still have to hear them.
I know the world deserves
more than mindless chatter.
Someone on this planet
has to deserve it. I have
to deserve it. I've already
taught myself how to stop
arguing, how to stop being
unpleasant, how to stop
making waves. If you can
fit in with those simple rules,
if you want, you can be
forgotten as soon as you're dead.

Sometimes it's not easy to just
give people what they want.
Usually you have to sell
yourself and your beliefs short.
Get ready for it. It will
happen in time. Brace yourself.

Wanted To Play

Love is a crazy game

And I so desperately
Wanted to play

I rolled the dice
I took a chance
And I lost
The game

And then I was asked
if I would like to play
again

Love is a crazy game

And I so desperately
Want to play

We All Want That

Not a lot of people think about
killing themselves
I mean, not a lot of people think of it
as a real option, because I mean, when
things get tough, when you get the bad
breaks, well, they get better
eventually they do

and no one wants to think about the bad stuff
and everyone wants to see the light
at the end of the tunnel
and no one wants to think that bad things
can happen to them

it's like they think they are invincible or something

but sometimes things don't work out that way

and no, you don't want to think about the bad stuff
and you want to think about
the things that are supposed to
make life grand for you

we all want that, don't we

Well, Someone Is

where do you draw the time
over what is too much
and what is not enough

I've been thinking about that

really, I've been thinking about you
and I've been wondering
how much thinking is too much
and how much is not nearly enough
where do you draw that line

you never want to see me
and yes, I'm beginning to get used to that

maybe that's what I should be thinking
that I can be used to you not caring

maybe you don't know that I care

well, I told you

you must have just changed your mind
or lied to me
one of the other

and I don't like either option

we were supposed to have a happy life together
we were supposed to get married
remember us talking about it?
I'm sure you don't remember.
I do. I remember

and yes, I'm beginning to understand
and I'm beginning to feel it

But now you don't think of marriage
that's one of your little ways
to let me know
how you feel

are you trying to make me
feel this way

well, someone is

Well, What About Me

How can I say goodbye to you
when you don't even know I was looking for you
when you weren't even listening

have I been letting myself down
all this time
have I been hoping for something that wasn't there

I've just wanted to be alive
and I don't know if that means anything to you

people tell me they care

and you know, if I died
they'd cry for a few days and
then they would get
used to the fact that I was gone

yes, I've thought of that
the person that thinks too much
who is a perfectionist

I know you want to make everything better for everyone
I know you want everyone to be happy
I know you want to try to do everything
so that everyone is appeased

but what about me?

I've wanted those things
and that doesn't mean I get them

I don't know what to do anymore for your problems
and I don't know that if I had planned
on spending the rest of my life with you
if you would change

I can't be your beacon anymore
I need a beacon for me, you know
and it's not going to be just anyone
because I want too much

but I'm trying to learn
that that beacon isn't going

to be you anymore, either

I know what you have to do to make your life better
but I can't tell you that
because I have to draw the time somewhere
because I'm tired of giving all the time
and getting nothing in return

Where I Left Of

I'm considering this the beginning of time.
A lot of things in the world don't make sense.
I could just write about nothing.
but still I get nothing

It's like most of the things

in my life, sometimes.
Okay, my jewelry for the most
part, is mostly gone

I've eaten extra eggs
and extra beet soup
and extra hardships
since I have been pent up here

It's time for me to stop
and time for me to go away
and I never get the chance
to make my own decisions
and live my own life

I wonder when the world
is going to come back again

so I can pick up
where I left off

You Will

pieces of the puzzle:
i know how they fit

i've had to do this
puzzle thing for years
and I'm good at it

i make you whole

i know it won't take long
as i said, i'm good at this

you'll feel good
about it when it's done

you don't think
you will, but you will

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Magazines: *Children, Churches and Daddies* (cc&d magazine), founded June 1993; *Down in the Dirt*, conceived 1994, founded 2000

Books: *Hope Chest in the Attic*, *the Window*, *Close Cover Before Striking*, (Woman.), *Autumn Reason*, *Contents Under Pressure*, *the Average Guy's Guide* (to Feminism), *Changing Gears*, *the Key to Believing*, *Domestic Blisters*, Etc., *Oeuvre*, *Exaro Versus*, *L'arte*, *The Other Side*, *The Boss Lady's Editorials*, *The Boss Lady's Editorials* (2005 Expanded Edition), *Duality*, *Seeing Things Differently*, *Change/Rearrange*, *Death Comes in Threes*, *Moving Performances*, *Six Eleven*, *Life at Cafe Aloha*, *Creams*, *Rough Mixes*, *The Entropy Project*, *The Other Side* (2006 Edition), *Stop.*, *Sing Your Life*, *The Beauty and the Destruction*, cc&d v167.5 (*Writing to Honour & Cherish*, editor edition), *Blister & Burn* (the Kuypers edition), *S&M*, cc&d v170.5 (*Distinguished Writings* editor edition), *Living in Chaos*, *Silent Screams*, *Taking It All In*, *It All Comes Down*, *Rising to the Surface*, *Galapagos*, *Chapter 38* (v1), *Finally*, *Literature for the Snotty and Elite* (v1), *Sulphur & Sawdust*, *Slate & Marrow*, *Blister & Burn*, *Rinse & Repeat*, *Survive & Thrive*, (not so) *Warm & Fuzzy*, *Torture & Triumph*, *Oh.*, *the Elements*, *Side A/Side B*, *Balance*, *Chaos Theory*, *Writing To Honour & Cherish*, *Distinguished Writings*, *Breaking Silences*, *Unlocking the Mysteries*, *the Book of Scars*, *We The Poets*, *Life on the Edge*, *Revealing all your Dirty Little Secrets*, *Decrepit Remains*, *Charred Remnants*, *Hope & Creation*, *Bending the Curve*, *Layers of Creation*, *Dark Matter*, *Infamous in our Prime*, *Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art*, *the Electronic Windmill*, *Changing Woman*, *the swan road*, *the Significance of the Frontier*, *The Svetasvatara Upanishad*, *Harvest of Gems*, *the Little Monk*, *Death in Málaga*, *Memento Mori*, *In the Palace of Creation*, *R.I.P.*, *Bob the Bumble Bee*, *Remnants and Shadows*, *I Saw This*, *the Drive*, *Thomas at Tea*, *Crashing Down Nineteenth*, *Blue Collar Ballet*, *Hope & Creation*, *Bending the Curve*, *Layers of Creation*, *Dark Matter*, *Chapter 38* (v1 & v2), *Finally: Literature for the Snotty and Elite* (3 volumes), *Survival of the Fittest*, *a Wake-Up Call From Tradition*.

Compact Discs: *Mom's Favorite Vase* the demo tapes, *Kuypers* the final (MFV Inclusive), *Weeds and Flowers* the beauty & the desolation, *The Second Axing* Something is Sweating, *The Second Axing* Live in Alaska, *Pettus & Kuypers* Live at Cafe Aloha, *Pointless Orchestra* Rough Mixes, *Kuypers* Seeing Things Differently, *SD/SD* Tick Tock, *Kuypers* Change Rearrange, *Order From Chaos* The Entropy Project, *Kuypers* Six One One, *Kuypers* Stop., *Kuypers* Masterful Performances mp3 CD, *Kuypers* Death Comes in Threes, *Kuypers* Changing Gears, *Kuypers* Dreams, *Kuypers* How Do I Get There?, *Kuypers* Contact • Conflict • Control, *the DMJ Art Connection* the DMJ Art Connection, *Kuypers* Questions in a World Without Answers, *Kuypers* SIN, *Kuypers* WZRD Radio (2 CD set), *Mom's Favorite Vase* and *The Second Axing* These Truths, *assorted artists* String Theory, *Oh* (audio CD), *Life At The Cafe* (3 CD set), *DMJ Art Connection* Indian Flux, *DMJ Art Connection* Manic Depressive or Something, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #1, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #2, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #3, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #4, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #5, *Chaotic Radio* the Chaotic Collection #01-05 (5 CD set) etc. (audio CD, 2 CD set), *Chaotic Elements* (2 CD set), *Chaos in Motion* (6 CD set), *SD/SD* Screeching to a Halt (EP), *PB&J* Two for the Price of One (EP), *Kiki, Jake and Haystack* An American Portrait, *Kuypers/the Bastard Trio/Paul Baker/the JoAnne Powlers Trio* Fusion (4 CD set).