

# my soul in the trunk of my car

*live reading 05/17/11 at the Cafe in Chicago  
before the 05/28/11 TRUNK FEST Evanston IL performance*

Scars  
Publications

Janet Kuypers  
cc&d chapbook

i've heard political pundits  
on both sides  
say  
we're becoming a third world country

our products are made in third world countries  
all of or technology is asian  
we've stopped manufacturing anything  
unemployment's sky-high  
we owe china billions

maybe this really is  
the end of an empire,  
they say

# End of an Empire

Janet Kuypers,  
written 02/25/11

now, the only empire  
i can remember from history  
is the Roman Empire  
where leaders had so much power

and like america, sodomy was illegal  
unless it was with a non-roman or a slave

and in america, i think the seventh state  
allowed gay marriages the other day,  
and yesterday the president said  
they will not differentiate marriage now  
as only between a man and a woman

a comedic political pundit just asked  
if that meant bestiality was now legal  
according to the federal government

and i'm sure that it's not  
but lines are being moved  
and lines are being crossed

and how closely did the life of Caligula  
coincide with the end of the roman republic,  
i wondered

# Escape My Brain Somehow

Janet Kuypers, written 04/18/11

thinking is my demon  
sleeplessness surrounds me

some meditate, rise above it all  
live in a higher plane of existence

i wish i knew how to escape my brain  
maybe then i could get a night's rest

then at times i hear the delusions  
of the mentally insane

hear their existential rambling  
hear their nonsensical blather

some meditate to a higher plane  
some psychotically imagine it

so when i'm stuck in a corner like this  
and my brain is still reeling

i wish i could just be crazy sometimes

let me talk to imaginary people  
let me think i see more than everyone else

even if i imagined  
that the world was out to get me

at least then i could justify  
believing that i was important

but if insanity gave me demons  
i still wouldn't be able to sleep

# Elephants Carry the World

Janet Kuypers, written 03/09/11 (conceived 03/08/11)

elephants carry the world  
in a line  
in a chain  
they walk  
hold up the earth

and i remember  
sitting in the passenger seat  
with you driving down the road  
and two elephants  
started walking down the street  
in front of us

slow down,  
get out of the way,  
i thought

and as you started to pull over  
i looked at you in a panic  
and i said  
“i don’t have my camera with me”

you pulled over,  
and the two elephants  
(one much larger than the other)  
started walking across the street  
and stopped right on the sidewalk  
not three feet in front of us

we both just sat there  
in shock and awe  
until i watched  
a man from a building across the street  
come running toward us,  
slowing down and stopping at a ledge  
between us and the elephants

he placed some hard wrapped candies  
on the ledge  
and said to the elephants  
“i thought you might like these”  
and then slowly backed away

all I could think was  
“how are they supposed to open candies  
wrapped in plastic like this?  
they don't have opposable thumbs”

when you heard my thoughts  
you said,  
“elephants are highly intelligent creatures”

and i thought,  
they carry the world, you know  
as i then looked over  
and saw these two elephants  
get on large bicycles  
and start to ride away

# one by one, the beech trees fell

Janet Kuypers, written 03/11/11

i have lived at this grove all my life  
the beautiful trees have always lined the roads  
the beech trees even lined the drive to our home

everything was blooming by the end of May  
when you came in from the coast to our home  
and the war didn't touch here

could hear noise in the distance one morning  
he told me some trees have been already been felled  
on the General Field Marshall's urgent orders

Rommel was sure an attack was immanent  
they couldn't leave trees for enemy hideouts  
and so they fell our trees, one by one

looked out the front door, saw our stripped land  
these trees had souls, and no one mourns  
the loss of a species alive on this land longer than we

they didn't do this everywhere:  
i hear they left some trees up in fields  
so glider planes would be destroyed while landing

what lives are worth saving, i thought  
as the soldiers were doing their job  
after the beech trees fell

# Before it Occurred to Me

Janet Kuypers, written 03/29/11

as the extra kitchen cleanser  
mixed with the laundry detergent  
i spilled on the floor before  
the fumes rose

i opened a window  
turned on a fan

coughed

before it occurred to me  
that i could mix these cleaning fluids  
at just the right time  
and leave him  
trapped here  
to this fate

as he has trapped me here  
for countless years

no, i'm no Nazi  
no, i'm not evil  
i'm a woman

and sometimes  
after you've spent years  
breathing these fumes  
you finally decide  
when enough  
is enough

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## other publications from Scars:

**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.)*, *Aut umn Reason, Contents Under Pressure, the Average Guy's Guide (to Feminism), Changing Gears, the Key to Believing, Domestic Blisters, Etc., Oeuvre, Exaro Versus, L'arb, The Other Side, The Boss Lady's Editorials, The Boss Lady's Editorials (2005 Expanded Edition), Dudit y, 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), S top., 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, v2 & v3), Finally, Literature for the Snotty and Elite (v1, v2 & part 1), a Wake-Up Call From Tradition, (recovery), Dark Matter: the Mind of Janet Kuypers, Evolution, (tweet), Get Your Buzz On, Janet & Jean Together, po-em, Taking Poetry to the Streets, the Cana-Dixie Chi-town Union, the Written Word, Dual, Prepare Her for This, Uncorrect, Living in a Big World, Pulled the Trigger, Venture to the Unknown, Janet Kuypers: Enriched, She's an Open Book, "40", Sexism and Other Stories, the Stories of Women, 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 Deceit Remains, Charred Remnants, Hope & Creation, Bending the Curve, Layers of Creation, Dark Matter, Survival of the Fittest, Crawling Through the Dirt, Laying the Groundwork, Weathered, echo, Ink in my Blood, (bound) (4 editions), Enriched Poetry, cc&d Enriched Prose, Enriched with Dirt, An Open Book, Literary Town Hall (2 editions), Give What You Can, Down in the Vrt v084, Come Fly With Me, Clearing the Debris, Sectioned & Sequestered, Six Six Six, Skeletal Remains, Out of the Web, Don't Tread on Me, Lines of Intensity, Entering the Ice Age, When the World Settles, Into the White, Along the Surface, Life... from Nothing, the Line to Power, Fear the Forsaken, Down In It, Falling Into Place, Wake Up and Smell the Flowers, Unknown, Looking Beyond, 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 Malaga, Memento Mori, In the Palace of Creation, R.J.P., Bob the Bumble Bee, Remnants and Shadows, I Saw This, the Drive, Thomas at Tea, Crashing Down Nineteenth, Blue Collar Ballet, nopoem, In Your Heart the Apostrophe's Teardrops of God, the Adventures of the Key to Believing Bear, Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art (second printing), DeCard Kinder / Charlie Newman, 12 Times 12 Equals Gross, a Marble Nude Pauline Borchese with a Marble Apple in her Marble Hand, Challenge of Night and Day and Chicago Poems, Lighten Up, Not Far From Here, Watershed, You Have Finally Won, Avenue C, Suburban Rhythms, Down Syndrome, the Dark Side of Love, The pill is a man's best friend, Angelo's Syllable Is Good Boss of Devil's Spine, Poems and Stories from The Blue Collar Book of the Dead, Cat People, Death of an Angel*

**Compact Discs:** *Mom's Favorite Vase* the demo tapes, *Kuypers* the final (MPV Inclusive), *Weeds and Flowers* the beauty & the desolation, *The Second Axing* Something is Sweating, *The Second Axing* Live in Alaska, *Petius & 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, *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), the DMJ Art Connection Indian Flux, the 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 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* Screetching 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 Powders Trio* Fusion (4 CD set), *pod-*