

JANET KUYPERS

PERIODIC TABLE
POETRY THAT
ACCOMPANIED
JANET KUYPERS'
POETRY SALOON
AT NOON
INTERVIEW
AND FEATURE

INTERVIEW TO POETRY

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JANET KUYPERS INTERVIEW TO POETRY t a b l e o f c o n t e n t s

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Janet Kuypers is a professional performance artist, and publisher for Scars Publications (<http://scars.tv>). She is a writer, photographer, and is the editor of two literary magazines, while publishing books and releases CDs. She has had over 70 books published (as of 8/28/13, poetry, prose, novels and art), has sung in 3 acoustic bands, and worked with 8 music groups (combining her poetry with music). In 2010 she began hosting the Chicago open mic *the Café Gallery*. Her 40+ CD releases appear at iTunes and other online vendors, and she also produces a weekly poetry open mic PodCast (and ran an Internet radio station 2005-2009), found on line through <http://scars.tv> or <http://www.janetkuypers.com>.

Cerium

#SB, CE

Joining commuters driving
toward the Chicago Loop,

I watched majestic skyscrapers
frame the skyline,

as I witnessed over Lake Michigan
early morning clouds —

thin at the top, each cloud looked
like a snow-capped mountain,

framing this flat-land city, and
surrounding the skyscraper skyline...

But all those clouds
were only formed in the mornings

by the early morning weather,
pulling water daily from Lake Michigan.

When the water from the lake
is warmer than the dew point,

water rises until the air is cold enough
so that lake water forms those clouds.

But the thing is, Lake Michigan
is more than hydrogen and oxygen —

at times they even warn the public
to not go into the unsafe water

(The same water Chicago filters
for everyone to shower in, or drink).

So I checked some of the studies
on what foreign compounds

Lake Michigan actually contains —
at times you can find everything

from cadmium, mercury, lead or zinc,
to copper, chromium, even selenium.

That list included harmful elements,
but the numbers that were really

off the charts came from Cerium.
Cerium acts like calcium

in the human body, and you can
find a lot of Cerium in tobacco plants —

and with Cerium's moderate toxicity,
prolonged exposure can lead to

itching, heat sensitivity or skin lesions.
And wait a minute, Cerium can

spontaneously ignite if the air
is hot, and you may be thinking

that if Cerium's in water it should
be safe, but water can't be used

to stop a Cerium fire, since Cerium
reacts with water to make hydrogen gas.

Well, if Cerium fire fumes are toxic,
then so much for Lake Michigan being

good for you — even when Chicago
has multiple water purification plants.

Because Cerium in the water
that forms those morning clouds

is one thing, but no matter the toxicity
of Cerium, remember that us humans

are over seventy percent water.
With all the compounds

that Cerium goes into,
it's probably best if Cerium's left

to it's industrial uses, instead
of working it's way in our water...

And besides, it's nice to think
that those beautiful morning clouds

framing the Chicago skyline
with snow-capped mountains

are actually more than just hydrogen
and oxygen, because every once

in a while, look at that morning sky.
Because in just the right way,

a little Cerium
can really go a long way.

Fermium

#100, FM

When the bulldog ant of Australia
is cut in half,
the halves see each other as enemies.

The head attempts to devour the tail.
And the tail,
in an effort to defend itself,

battles for up to thirty minutes
to sting the head.
And this battle happens everywhere

in the world, because life is always
that battle
between the two halves of the whole.

#

Because everything contains that twin,
one part good,
and one part you've construed into something

so horribly wrong. And you want to tear it apart,
that other half,
you despise everything about it —

everything that somehow is a part
of you.
So you, in life, always possess that battle.

#

This even applies on a molecular level.
Consider hydrogen:
it's in our water we drink and bathe in,

and atomically, we're sixty-seven percent
hydrogen.
But on November first nineteen fifty two,

"Ivy Mike" was the code name
for the first
successful test of the hydrogen bomb.

It's funny how we can take something
so needed for our life
and, like our sun, turn it into something

to destroy everything we know.
Because as I said,
one side gives life, the other kills.

#

And thanks to "Ivy Mike" and that
hydrogen bomb,
two elements were discovered —

one of them was named after physicist
Enrico Fermi.
You see, Fermi worked on "Chicago Pile-1,"

the first nuclear reactor. Fermi worked
in a space
under Chicago University's then unused

football stadium bleachers. That's because
the school
had not used the football stadium

for three years, because the school
thought sports
were a distraction from academics.

Fermi, “the father of the atomic bomb”.
also worked
on the Manhattan project, and Fermilab

outside of Chicago was named after him.
And here’s the kick:
the hydrogen device that produced

Fermium was designed by Richard Garwin,
Enrico Fermi’s student.
So for all that Enrico Fermi had done,

it seems fitting that Fermium is
the heaviest
element formed by the nuclear

bombardment of lighter elements
(like hydrogen).
And this highly radioactive element

was initially kept secret due to the
cold war.
But it’s amazing what we can discover

while taking something we so need
for life,
and turning it into an instrument of death.

#

Because Fermium was classified
in the cold war,
Swiss scientists bombarding oxygen,

discovering an isotope of it, and wanted
to name it
centurium (to honor element one hundred).

Good thing Fermi's nuclear work got
declassified, so they
could honor Enrico Fermi with "Fermium".

But wait, Fermium is bad, it's radioactive,
there can't be
any good applications for it...

Well, consider the two sides of any twin:
Fermium's the only
element that can use its alpha particles

in radio therapy for cancer. And yes,
it's radioactive,
but its short half life means it decays

quickly. Because as I said, it's amazing
how two sides
can be both bad, and also so good.

P o l o n i u m

#084, Po

On the Indonesian island Jawa
large turtle skeletons
litter the plains,

because after the turtles
came in from the ocean
to lay their eggs,

swarms of wild dogs there
got together and
pounced.

Those wild dogs flipped the turtles over,
and stripped them completely
from their shells

before they ate them alive.

Because we have to remember
that life is a constant
avoidance of death:

since later on, many of those wild dogs
who killed the turtles
were prey to the tiger,

who later pounced upon them.
This is the cycle of life,
because every birth

is a prelude to death.
Remember this.
Don't forget.

#

Keep in mind that elemental Polonium
changes in a nuclear reactor
to form Polonium-210...

Because the former Russian agent
Alexander Litvinenko
was the first man

to be poisoned to death from lethal
Polonium-210-induced
acute radiation.

So yes, because life is a prelude to,
and a constant avoidance
of death,

this Polonium-210 poisoning marked
the beginning of an era
of nuclear terrorism.

#

I know, I know, this is only
a part of Polonium,
and they found

that Polonium's electrical conductivity
changes with it's temperature,
making it perfect

for eliminating static electricity.
And because of it's
short half-life,

it's decay generates heat, so it's a
convenient and light source
to generate

thermo-electric power in space
satellites and lunar stations —
because it's great

that for space no moving parts
are required for power
from Polonium.

Yes, I know it's radioactive,
Marie Curie discovered
Polonium

(named for her homeland Poland),
she even coined the phrase
“radioactivity” while

working. She even worked so diligently
that on her own wedding day
she wore a black dress —

because she could then wear it
for the work she later
had to do.

#

Marie Curie wore a black dress
to her own wedding;
maybe she knew

that life is a constant avoidance
of death. Life is just
a prelude to death,

because though Polonium otherwise
seems like a relatively
harmless element,

Polonium-210 can still be used
as just the right element
for nuclear terrorism.

#

With Polonium, there's much to learn.
Because when alloyed,
it can be

a portable neutron source, Polonium
is even used in making
photographic plates.

But then again, Polonium's
the only component
of cigarette smoke

found in lab rats to produce cancer.
Polonium was produced
in World War II's

Manhattan Project — it was even
part of the design of the
Fat Man bomb

on Nagasaki. Yeah, Polonium
has many good qualities
to us humans,

but keep in mind that life is still
a constant avoidance
of death.

So despite what good we look for
in Polonium, this element
can also be

the instrument of death.
Remember this.
Don't forget.

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Compact Discs: *Mom's Favorite Verse* the demo tapes, *Kuypers the Tool* (MFV inclusive), *Woods and Flowers* the beauty & the desolation, *The Second Axing* Something is Sweating, *The*

Second Axing Live in Alaska, *Pathe & Kuypers Live at Cafe Aloha, Painless Orchestra Rough Mixes, Kuypers Seeing Things Differently, SD/50 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 S/M, Kuypers XZDO Radio* (2 CD set), *Mom's Favorite Verse and The Second Axing These Truths, assorted artists Shing Theory, Oh* (audio CD), *Life At The Cafe* (3 CD set), *the DMJ Art Connection Indian Flux, the DMJ Art Connection Warm, Depression 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), *Classic Simons* (2 CD set), *Class in Motion* (4 CD set), *SD/50* (screaming to a fish CD), *PS&U: True for the Price of One* (CD), *666, Side and Hypnotic* An American Portrait, *Kuypers/ the Bestard Trio/Paul Baker/ the Indiana Pawlers Trio Fusion* (4 CD set), *podcasts the Evolution of Performance Art* (13 CD set), *Kuypers Live* (14 CD set), *the DMJ Art Connection the Things They Did to You* (2 CD set), *Kuypers Seeing a Psychiatrist* (3 CD set), *Kuypers St. Paul's* (3 CD set), *Kuypers the 2009 Poetry Game Show* (3 CD set), *Kuypers and the R&Mann of South Africa Burn Through Me* (2 CD set), *Kuypers' 40**, *Kuypers Season and Other Stories, Kuypers the Stories of Women* (amazon.com release), *Kuypers "Dobra VeCa"* (4 CD set) *Kuypers "human"* (4 CD set), *Kuypers "Letting it All Out"*, *Kuypers "What We Need in Life"* (CD single), *Kuypers "Made Any Difference"* (CD single), *Kuypers/Starback "Across the Pond"* (3 CD set).