

Einstein dismissed some of his theories — even some we may know all too well.

Einstein didn't like some of his theories because he thought they weren't beautiful.

And I wonder: what is beauty?

Is it the geomagnetic aberrations of the Aurora Borealis dancing along the horizon at the arctic circle?

Is it the eternally changing wisps of volcanic trails in the Saturn moon Titan's atmosphere?

Or is it converting matter into pure energy with just the right formula?

We ask, what is beauty?

They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder. So it makes me wonder...

Einstein understood that everything was relative...

Opening Act

Because once he fathomed the relationship between matter and energy, once he understood the interconnectivity between matter and energy —

he understood that his knowledge in the hands of evil men could mean that his Fatherland, the land he escaped from, he understood that Hitler and the Third Reich could be working on an atomic bomb, converting so little matter into so much devastating energy.

Einstein understood the gravity of his writing a letter to appeal to Roosevelt to create this bomb, to protect us from Germany.

Now:

imagine the finality of naming an element discovered after the first explosion of the hydrogen bomb after Albert Einstein.

Because really, in a way, it's ironically beautiful.

So we ask, what is beauty?

Because chemists will make it clear that Einsteinium has no known uses... But think about it: is there any logical reason to grow a certain flower and purchase it at inflated prices to give to someone you're smitten with on an early date? Is there any logical reason to accept the Deboers company global stranglehold over stopping the release of an otherwise common crystal so that a loved one can cherish a clear stone on their left finger to show the world that they're otherwise "taken"? Is there any logical reason to claim a song for a slow dance on your wedding day?

Logically? Of course not.
But we do it anyway,
we keep dried rose petals
from that infatuating relationship,
women constantly ooh and aah
over engagement ring sizes,
and married people
intrinsically feel
they *have* to dance
when they hear
their wedding song.

How illogical. But how beautiful.

So we ask what is beauty. And all scientists seem to use Einsteinium for now is basic scientific research, but that seems oddly fitting, since that is what Einstein did best. To think. To research.

And that is beautiful.

White Phosphorus #16

Seeing bombs from Viet Nam and the white smoke rising — with each bomb exploding, I knew that smoke...
It was Willie Pete, white Phosphorus — you couldn't put it out once it started burning. This stuff would destroy the forests foreign to our U.S. troops.

I know you can't understand. But I wanted you to know that I haven't felt close to anyone or anything in years.

It sounds sick, but seeing that footage, seeing that white smoke from that file footage, it brought it all back to me. It brought the emotions flooding back to me like it was yesterday. Everything that seems so volatile about that war, in a way has become a part of me, right down to my DNA. You look at your tv screen and think it makes no sense, but... It's a part of me. I know I'm old now, I know it's only a small part of me, but I know I need it. I can't explain why, but I do.

When you see the destruction of Willie Pete... Yeah, we knew what it was, white Phosphorus, but all of us called it that, it was just easier to say it then, but... When you see the destruction of that white Phosphorus, you think of it on some existential level, like "oh, violence is bad," but when I see those bombs going off, and when I think of what it was like to live in that war, that Willie Pete that white Phosphorus to us, that was our key to getting through that hell. You can't understand, but that was the closest we had to getting out alive.



What I think I like the most about you is the way you always leave me wanting more. The longer I'm out in the sun, the more red my nose and cheeks get, and the more I want to slather you all over me to protect me.

What I think I like the most about you is how whenever I see you around me, you consume me like a wave of heat on a summer afternoon. Seeing your metal along my flesh teases me until sweat dances down my hairline and tickles my neck.

What I think I like the most about you is when you say that absence makes the heart grow fonder, because you're like the fireworks I only see on special occasions, and with your absence I want you more, so you couldn't be more right.

What I think I like the most about you are the things that make me think I have to fight for you, are the things that make you cost just too much. It's true, the market determines your worth to the world, even if you're always priceless to me.

What I think I like the most about you is the fact that you can lead the way to help me fly high into the sky, so I could see any corner of the Earth, or even see the Universe beyond our narrow global vision. You do that for me.

What I think I like the most about you is the fact that you seem so common in the world, but you manage to hide yourself in just the right way. But still, you're everywhere from dental implants to cell phones, to engagement rings to jet engines to space ships...

What I think I like the most about you is the wondering about you, is the yearning for you. That's what I like. This high-charged guessing game. You make me work so hard just to find you. You leave me to think about the possibilities. And that's what I like.



You tell me you want to be the hand that pulls me from the burning building, but you caused that fire.

They try to put it out with water, but you turn it into hydrogen gas.

You give everything more heat, and the fire only expands.

So every time I try to be rescued you turn your back, you claim you have more work to do.

So I will rescue myself this time again, and I will wonder if I should stop trying and allow myself to perish in the flames. Now all I have to do is sit and wait for another disaster to consume me.

I'll wait for you to do your work. Sitting and waiting is exactly what I'll do.

You fascinate me with your fireworks, you think, oh, what a pretty purple color. She'll like that. But I was never that fond of that color, and I hate the damage you can cause.

When things get hot, it seems you melt just above my own body temperature. How can I survive with you like this?

My love for you is the deepest red, but why do you tell me one thing and do another? You really charge me when we're together, but why do you run away when I need you most?

I'm stepping over the wooden beams now, and the flames are all around me. Here, look at the blood dripping from my arms. Here, smell my flesh burning. This is what you do.

You have been so volatile recently, that you seem to react to everything I ever do, even if it's in an effort to save us. So, let me burn.

Can't it be easier for me to just perish? I try and try, and every time at the last minute, my figure steps over the the charred remains and saves me.

If only you wouldn't create the burning. Is only you would exist for more than destruction, even if it *was* only for purple fireworks, or conducting electricity, or cooling lasers, giving power to batteries, or outer space energy.

But I'm afraid to be with you anymore, because you'll even spontaneously ignite in the air. I know our past, I know I can absorb you into me, But I only know now that you serve no purpose for me.

So after all this time, I only wonder if I could ever feel safe with you, even just once.



Isn't that moment of expectation almost the best part?

How it melts in your mouth and not in your hands...

Or, is it the most heart-wrenching part.

When you think everything is over, you see that at 30 degrees C everything melts away.

And you think you shouldn't be doing this, that this can't be happening, but on a hot day — everything is held in peril.

Because as I said, everything can melt away.

Yeah, I know how they say it melts in your mouth and not in your hands, but after a lick, it doesn't have much of a taste, it's a bit astringent and has a metallic taste that lasts a few hours. But as I said, it melts in your mouth and not in your hands, but no one even knows what it tastes like when it's molten...

But still, with a low melting point and a high boiling point and no toxic vapor, it contracts as it melts (much like water) It actually floats on it's own liquid.

You want to see it floating away on itself like that, you want to see what you think are the laws of nature being broken, so you wait for that moment of expectation, to see that moment of change, and wonder it that's almost the best part.



I'm wondering if there's something chemical that brings us together, something that brings us to our knees, something that sucks us in...

Your stare from a distance haunts me; I know that your look lasts longer than the Universe itself, so, if we join, would we stay together forever?

I'm wondering if you're sensing what I'm sensing, is it just me, am I making this all up in my head, or when I glance up and catch your eyes, do you see how you've taken hold of me?

I look at you and think that you're supposed to be the one that's good for everyone else, that you're supposed go out of your way to help everyone else, and the one thing I *do* know

is that you don't break down like everyone else seems to with me, so maybe this attraction to you might not cause to you leave me.

Maybe you'll absorb me in, neutron by neutron.

Because really, I'm wondering if it could work out this time, if we'd have one of those relationships that no one ever doubts, especially us, because we know we'll always be in love... I've been so drawn to you, you have that effect on me, I can't help it. This magnetism is undeniable, the heat you generate can actually ignite in the air with me. Maybe that's why

I've been wondering why I felt the need to take your cigarette and inhale, exhale, while the filter was still warm from your lips, there just seconds before.

I've seen you work well with others. My loved ones with cancer, you could even help them. It makes me a little jealous, because I've been so drawn to you that I want you for myself.

Because really, when I catch your eyes from across the room, when I see your eyes dart away, when I feel this chemical reaction, well, what I'm wondering is, do you feel it too.



too much light makes the baby go blind and too much light makes the moth rush into the flame and die in a glorious blaze of glory

A scientist placed parts of you in a tube, removed all the air he could and sent an electrical current right through you.

It glowed And he called it a Cathode Ray.

I have seen the light; I have seen your red hue.

You say you make everything bright, but what is my choice:

burn in that red flame if I get too much of you, so I can burst quickly? I know they even dope plastics with you for lasers, for what, so you'd be ready for a quick kill?

So, what,
do I burn in that red flame?
Or do I keep giving myself
only trace amounts of you,
taking your red intensity
bit by bit,
thinking I'm not
giving myself
enough, but still,
you absorb me slowly?
Until you pull me in?

Opening Act

Because either way, you'll try to absorb me in, right down to my neutrons. I mean, they've been doping what I use all the *time* with you for all of my life now, and I didn't even know it.

Yeah, they say too much light makes the baby go blind.
But what does it do when it's been with you all your life?
Will it kill you then?

They keep talking about too much light, but I wonder if it's a question of the right kind of light. Because, you haven't taken me out yet — I seem to be doing pretty well with you. So they might be talking about the danger, but if you know what you're doing, maybe enough of you is just what I need. I'll take my chances with you, because if you've been doped into what I use, maybe the addition if you is exactly hat I need.

Gadolinium #64

This attraction to you, when I learn what you do: are you a force of nature?

Is it your magnetism, and how my need's only magnified as I draw closer to you?

That's the only way I can explain this, you know.

I know this momentum in your magnetism chills me to the core:

but the world doesn't know that your magnetic refrigeration is the energy we need...

you must have a power no one else has harnessed, to do this to me. The force you have on me makes my blood rush, and with that blood-brain barrier,

I even look at MRI scans, and you're just the contrast agent to enhance all my vessels.

In older times, the electric force between us would even curl me in an arc to you.

I know, I know, I must abide by the laws of physics and motion when it comes to you,

because, as I said, with your dynamic equilibrium, you must be a force of nature.

Hydrogen Cyanide #1

He was once a college chemistry professor, so he hoped he was a shoe-in to work with the Waffen-SS.

He ended up working at the Rundfunkhaus — a Berlin radio station broadcasting Nazi propaganda.

But after his university was bombed, he took what he could get and was grateful for work

that didn't require him to use a gun. But when the Science and Research Department at

the Reich Main Security Office gave him orders to go to the Dachau camp to retrieve paperwork,

he solemnly went home to pack for his two-day trip, driving there one day, returning home the next.

#

He'd seen the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, 35 kilometres north of Berlin, but Sachsenhausen

was more of a training centre for Schutzstaffel officers before the SS men were sent to oversee other camps.

And although Dachau was small, it was essentially the first, and set the standard for all of Hitler's camps.

He felt the tension knot in his stomach grow, even before saying goodbye his wife and two children.

#

Arriving at the camp the next afternoon, he learned the lieutenant general was away from his office,

so he could only get the necessary paperwork the next morning. Which left him alone

at the camp, in a stranger's office. He paced. A part of him didn't want to go out there,

there was safety inside these office walls. Here he could remain separate from the war.

#

After nearly an hour of pacing, he decided to just go out there. Face it. Get it over with.

And when he stepped outside the air felt heavy; he could feel the weight of the move he made,

the weight of his legs grew heavier; he dragged his feet, making his way to the open walkway.

Although there was that heavy haze in the air, he knew what chemical reactions had occurred

to leave that distinct smell in the smoke and haze working it's way through the air.

He saw across the clearing the doors close to the "showers", so he walked with a determination

to bring himself to the hall. He could hear the sounds of people inside grow louder,

but he then caught a glimpse of a guard that just made his way to the roof. As he

Janet Kuypers

got closer, he watched the soldier open what looked like a can, then shake it

into the vent at the centre of the building, before closing the vent and walking across

the roof before taking the ladder back down. From the moment anything from that can

made it's way into that building, with every subsequent step he took, he could hear

the wails and screams get louder and louder from the Jews inside. He stopped for a moment.

Look, he thought, he knew what this was, get used to this, was all he could think to himself

to get his heavy feet moving again. He caught the soldier walking down the ladder

from the building, and quickened his pace to catch him before he got far from the building.

Not able to see the ranking on his uniform shirt, he quickened his pace to not yell for the soldier.

With the soldier still holding the jar in his hand, he asked if he could see the can. Once he had it

in his hands, he looked at all elements on the label. Zyklon B. Hydrogen Cyanide. He knew

this poisonous liquid boiled just above room temperature, so he knew that all they had to do

was drop some from a sealed can into the open hall, poisoning thousands in only twenty minutes.

Opening Act

He knew the Germans first thought of using this Prussic acid against Napoleon in eighteen

thirteen — and if they had, it would have been the first time Hydrogen Cyanide was used in warfare...

But look at him now, the chemistry professor, reduced to thinking of how all the Jews inhaled

the bitter almond smell of Hydrogen Cyanide, until it combined with their red blood cells,

causing death from oxygen starvation. He suddenly felt he needed to take a deep

breath, get in all the oxygen he could. He saw the blue stains on the concrete walls, then walked

back to the soldier to give him the empty can, when the soldier, making small talk, said

"one of the older Jews pleaded to me, 'I'm a decorated vet from WWI, I was in an

artillery battalion, we shot gas shells at the British and Americans, I shouldn't be here,

my paperwork's with my luggage—' And they just kept telling him to go into the showers..."

And he knew in WWI we shot these shells into trenches in France, so he shrugged and gave a slight grin,

to commiserate with the soldier, but he knew that everyone fights their own battles in this war.

He was only a lieutenant, a lower-ranking attache than the colonel who sent him on this job,

Janet Kuypers

but he still held rank over this soldier, so he told the soldier that once there were no screams inside

and they opened the doors to bring everyone to the crematoriums, he wanted to be notified.

Then he walked away. At fifty metres he clutched at his pockets to find his cigarettes and lighter;

he wanted anything to calm him down and help him focus on anything else until it was time.

#

He stood in the field, chain smoking, until he heard the running footsteps in the distance.

He looked at his pocket watch. Twenty minutes had passed, as he saw a soldier running

toward him. He looked at the gas chamber and saw they had opened the doors, so he started

his methodical walk back to where he was destined to go. He acknowledged the soldier

with a wave, and quickened his pace to the building. He saw a few different soldiers

this time, all waiting until the cloud of gas was cleared from the chamber so thy could work.

He walked to the doorway. It was dark, but he could make out a pyramid of people

toward that small now closed centre vent. From what he could tell, it looked like the Jews

tossed the babies and small children toward the top, in an effort to keep the children alive.

Opening Act

One of the soldiers passed him as he stared, so he asked him how long he had been doing this.

"Nearly a year," he answered. So he had to ask if doing this, if seeing this, bothered him.

The man only answered, "If you do something long enough, you get used to anything."

With that, he nodded slightly, and knew he saw enough. He walked away.

#

Early the next morning, he came back to the offices at the Dachau concentration camp, so he could

get his paperwork as quickly as possible, so he could get out of there as quickly as possible.

#

The tension knot grew smaller in his stomach the closer he got to his home in that drive,

but as he came to his home, he saw his wife sitting outside their home, with all the widows open.

Once he got out of the car, he could hear her coughing, sounding more and more hoarse

with each gasp. He only wanted to hold her, but concern overtook him as she explained

that she just used a pesticide fumigant throughout the house, and she could

no longer breathe while inside those walls. He looked to the second floor of the house

Janet Kuypers

for the children, and she told him they were each staying the night at friends homes.

And suddenly he imagined that fumigant thats killing the vermin inside their home —

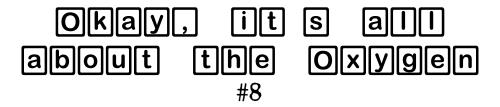
Hydrogen Cyanide was now in their home. A form of Zyklon B was now in their home.

All she was trying to do was kill the vermin, and he thought of the propaganda ministry

he now worked for, telling the nation to believe that the Jews are the rats, the Jews are the vermin.

So he looked at their home, and told her they would get out of here tonight, as far

as they possibly could. He then held her close before they walked away, holding hands.



Okay, so I like to think of myself as a history buff.

And no, I don't pay attention to American history, or even the details of, like, the ancient Roman Empire or anything — for the most part, I'm not even interested in the history of people... To quote Linus in *Peanuts*, "I love mankind, it's people I can't stand"...

Yeah, I know, my history's older than the human race: how was this Solar System formed? Or the Earth? How was this planet able to sustain life so that we humans could sit around *thinking* about this stuff?

As I said, when *I* think history, all I can do is gather evidence and theorize... But really, that just shows that there are times when I'm actually transfixed on a truly more universal puzzle.

#

Janet Kuypers

So look, I know I've studied way back to when matter didn't even exist yet in this Universe, or how matter formed. I know theories about asteroids bringing the building blocks of life itself to this planet. And sure, scientists think comets brought water to planet Earth, too. But when I think of early Earth, when it formed, it was a real mess, there were constant bombardments with objects from outer space, volcanoes were going off constantly, and the atmosphere was all sulfur and methane, thanks to the volatility of Earth mach one. And okay, comets may have brought water, and water has Oxygen in it, but really, back then the atmosphere was a bunch of un-breathable stuff to us humans.

Okay, so because there was no Oxygen in the atmosphere, any life that started on Earth mach one probably thought Oxygen was poisonous. (Because okay, I know there's nitrogen in our atmosphere, but if there was no Oxygen and it was replaced by sulfur we couldn't live, but early life living in a sulfur-rich environment may find Oxygen is toxic to them, right?)

Opening Act

Okay, so I know the universal historian inside of me wanted to know how Oxygen actually got into our air, so human life (or any life as we know it here on Earth) could actually begin.

#

Okay, so paleontologists study fossils, and the found some that are two hundred million years old, like in Earth mach one. Think about it: this was cyanobacteria from two hundred million years ago, near what scientists now call the great Oxygen event (which is what they call the biologically induced appearance of Oxygen in the air). Well anyway, in Earth mach one, any Oxygen that existed was just dissolved by the molten iron (that same iron that formed the Earth's inner core, I imagine). But the thing is, this cyanobacteria used photosynthesis, making Oxygen. And once there was so much Oxygen that it couldn't be dissolved into the then saturated reserves. all that Oxygen stayed in our atmosphere instead.

#

Janet Kuypers

I don't know, I keep trying to piece together this puzzle, but this whole 'Universe puzzle' is a pretty massive endeavor. I mean okay, all matter that we can monitor only takes up maybe four percent of this Universe. And I still don't know how to fit the idea of Dark Matter into this puzzle I've been working on... So maybe I'll have to reassess learning everything about everything right now, and work with stuff like the Oxygen around me instead...

Smelling Sulphur on Nine One One #16

I'm a journalist.
I can remember
the sounds of the newsroom
as I finished my articles
at one of the computers.
I can still hear
the sounds of the bustling,
of the rushing toward a deadline.

The shuffling of papers was a constant presence when you worked.

Hearing that low hum, that din of action and activity is almost comforting to types like us. It was the base beat to the symphony of our lives.

So, when you hear the words nine one one, you think of the number to dial when you hear of more gun violence on these Chicago streets.

You smell the Sulfur in the gunpowder, another sense that accentuates the center of the world around us...

But on a beautifully sunny day like today, you come into the newsroom in the early morning, and the sound of action has yet to truly penetrate the ears of these reporters, with a styrofoam coffee cup in one hand, crumpled pages of edited copy in the other.

But on this sunny morning, the din was different, much more cacophonous, much more rushed, while still so hushed. I made my way to one of the TV sets along the main wall, all were on different channels showing different bits of news, though all suddenly seemed the same. It looked like the newsroom was watching a movie as smoke poured from one of the Twin Towers. I tried to make out the voices from one of the TV sets when I witnessed a plane right before my eyes fly into the other Tower.

I stood for a moment, transfixed like some horror movie addict, before I thought of our contacts scattered along the east coast. I pulled out my cell phone and speed dialed Mark in New York, he had a meeting scheduled in the Twin Towers that morning, but the phone was jammed, so I dialed up Don who was in town there this week, but all was lost to computer-simulated voices, forcing me to leave messages and scramble from afar.

As pathetic as we were, we stared at TVs as most forms of communication were cut off for us. Was this an attack on New York, we struggled to discover until less than forty minutes later we saw the two-second long film replayed repeatedly from a D.C. security camera that caught a collision course crashing of a plane through the outer rings of the Pentagon.

Well. Now the story has changed.

Try to get through to Dan in D.C., was he in the Pentagon today. The phones still cut me off. So we scrambled for any data, looking for a Chicago connection: the Sears Tower, the John Hancock building, these are national icons that may be under attack... But before we could gain our bearings, only twenty-five minutes passed before a plane crashed into the ground near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Shanksville, I thought, I know someone there, I searched, and found Anna's number, but who was I kidding. Those lines were cut off too.

#

It's a strange feeling, being a reporter and not being able to contact a single person. Being detached from any lead, coupled with a sinking feeling, wondering if any of the people you know are physically hurt, or even alive.

As a journalist, you really feel hopeless, like your hands are tied behind your back.

We give the news. We're not supposed to feel so stranded.

#

An hour after the Pentagon was attacked, the Sears Tower was evacuated. This wasn't my beat; I had no contacts, no one to help me through this disaster, so I waited there in case others needed any assistance.

Janet Kuypers

I sat back for a moment, left there to wait, thinking about Mark and Don in New York, Dan in D.C., even poor Anna — I'm sure she's not hurt, but they're now cut off to me. As I said, all I could do was wait.

Clear your head of the people, I could hear myself say to myself.
You're a reporter, just break down the details of what you see instead of thinking of this as another one of your human interest articles...

The jet fuel, the drywall, all that paper in those offices, those people, trapped, they're all hydrogen, carbon, oxygen.
But wait a minute, in Chicago I think of the Sulfur smell when it comes to gunfire.
But jet fuel is Sulfur-laden, that burning drywall emits Sulfur gas, Sulfur's even the third most common mineral in the human body.

I mean,
I'm a newspaper reporter.
I know that Sulfur-based compounds
are used in pulp
and paper industries.

#

Yeah, I'm a newspaper reporter. Just take a breath and turn your head to the stats.

To clear my head of the humanity, the thought of so much Sulfur being so much a part of so many details in our lives, made me think of the destruction that Sulfur was so much a part of today. I know I stayed here to give a helping hand, but with all that Sulfur on my mind, suddenly all I could smell was the burning, and I couldn't stop coughing while I tried to catch my breath.

Opening Act

Jane t Kuypers

scarspublications

published in conjunction with **CC&d** magazine

ccandd96@scars.tv http://scars.tv/ccdISSN 1068-5154 INTERNET ISSN #1555-1555

Writing Copyright © 2013 Janet Kuypers. Design Copyright © 2013 Scars Publications and Design

Magazines: Children, Churches and Daddies (cc&d magazine), founded June 1993; Down in the Dirt, conceived 1994, founded 200

right a telenopie inter, the Article Head, Challenge of Hight and Day and Chicago Forms, Lighten and the Apple in the Machine Head, Challenge of Hight and Day and Chicago Forms, Lighten the, by Art for Form Head (Head) And Head (Head) Angels is High State (Head) Angels in High State (Head) Angels is High State (Head) Angels in High State (Head) Angels is High State (Head) Angels in High Stat

higher & Swordert, State & Barrow, Sikter & Barr, Risso & Regard, Service & Thrice, fast sal Worne & Farry, Ferrive & Trimph, Ob., to Elements, Side A, J'Side B, Belman, Cheer Desrry, Milling Internet & Cheek, Distriction of the Willings, Desident States, Cheer Berger, Service & Control, Berger of General, David Motters, Serviced in Millings, Desident States, Cheer Berger, Description of the Cheer Berger, Control, Berger of General, David Motters, Serviced in Millings, Cheer Berger, Description of the Research Description of the Research of the Research Description of the Cheer Berger, Description of the Research Description of the Research of the Rese

Compact Discs: Man's fervarile You the demo tages, Kaypers the Vinal (MFV Inclusiva), Weeds and Flowers the benefit & the desolution, The Second Asing Samething is Sweating, I

go les a Balas, Petra & Report les et d'in blair, Pointes Debrotes Baugh Mans, Groyer Stean Baigs Differently, 20/20 list lat, Kayers Chang Barmang, Grifer Home Tea (Facility Pointer Callies Cantilla Cantilla