

A woman's face is framed by a circular porthole from a Star Trek ship. The ship's exterior is light blue and white, with a large dish antenna visible. The woman has dark hair and is looking slightly to the side. Her hands are visible on the left and right sides of the porthole frame.

JANET KUYPERS
CC&D CHAPBOOK

Imzadi

poetry from a bonus *STAR TREK* feature
3/21/14 at the Chi-Fi annual convention

Star Trek, Star Wars and Storm Troopers

JANET KUYPERG
(WRITTEN 10/10/14)

I heard another episode of *Star Trek*
where they mentioned duranium,
so I looked it up online...

Duranium is an extremely hard
alloy, used in starship hulls
and hand-held tools.

But at the same time,
Google listed a slew of links
for this elusive duranium —

and one of them
was not for *Star Trek*,
but for *Star Wars*.

So, I followed the link
because there's a *Wookieepedia*
site for the *Star Wars* Wiki...

The *Revenge of the Sith* novel
explains that duranium is stronger
than either Transparisteel or Bronzium.

Oh, I could go on
about other details
about this imaginary substance,

but it just made me laugh
when I hear terms used in *Star Trek*
that were also used in *Star Wars*.

Then, of course, my mind
went to *Star Wars* again,
because if you don't have

science fiction for ideas,
you might have to use history itself,
because the only difference

between the storm troopers
in *Star Wars* is that they wore white
versus the Nazi brown shirt stormtroopers.

Because like the Nazi SS,
the brownshirts of the stormtroopers,
when they all arrived en masse

made them all blend into
one large force that
no one individual could flee.

I know, I know, storm troopers
in *Star Wars* covered their faces
with their head gear, but *that* trick

may have been the one thing
to make the soldiers better than the SS:
they could still say they were only

“following orders”, and this way
it's much harder to identify your enemy
when you can't even see their face...

Nitrium

JANET KOOPERS

(bonus poem from the “Periodic Table of Poetry” series) started 1/16/15, edited and completed 1/29/15
based on the original name (before Natrium) for Sodium, #11, Na

I’ve been studying elements
in the Periodic Table, and when
I heard the word “Nitrium,”
it made me laugh
(thinking of Nitrous Oxide).
So I looked it up online...
The only thing I could find
was from the Memory Alpha
in *Star Trek* Wikia,
and *they* could only guess
that Nitrium was either an alloy
or a metallic element.

But the history buff in me
remembered that Nitrium
is a variant of *natrium*,
and it was the original name
for the element Sodium.

(I mean, doctors even call
low sodium levels in the blood
hyponatremia...)

So as I read up
at my *Star Trek* Wikia —
I suddenly realized how
essential this Nitrium really was:

If you remember basic chemistry,
sodium reacts violently with water,
disintegrating, or even exploding
(*no no no*, you’re thinking of salt,
that’s not straight sodium,
that’s why it mixes with water...)

And as I read, Nitrium
(which was the first name
for Sodium)
was prevalent in asteroids
and it was used
in so many places
in the construction
of Federation starships.

Now, when it comes to our *own* bodies,
Sodium (or should I say Nitrium)
controls blood pressure
and blood volume —
it's essential in our bodies
to keep them running smoothly.

So it makes total sense
that Galaxy-glass vessels
used Nitrium in their ships,
from computers, to engines
to their life support systems.

Nitrium was so crucial
to the Cost of Living —
you see, I expanded my research
from *Star Trek* Wikia
to straight-up Wikipedia
and discovered that parasites
were eating the Nitrium
all over the Enterprise,
jeopardizing the ship's integrity.

Because as I've learned,
with every Periodic Table
element out there
there's a good side
and a bad side:
if Nitrium is used
all over the Enterprise,
something could easily come along
to destroy it as well.

I mean, think of it
in our own bodies:
when Sodium (or Nitrium)
reacts with water
and forms Sodium Hydroxide,
but this reaction
gets the Hydrogen so hot
that it burns.

And if Nitrium
was the original name for Sodium,
that probably explains why
you never see
a Galaxy-class starship
entering a planet's atmosphere,
where there's *water* in the air.
Because really,
the people at *Star Trek* learned
that even just a little water in the air
would be enough
to make their starship
disintegrate
around them.

...Really, whenever the Enterprise
actually goes to a planet,
they never land on the planet
with their big Galaxy-class starship,
they send a shuttle,
or they *beam* someone down,

because in this case,
the water in the air
that's embedded in the atmosphere,
that water could react
with the Sodium —
oops, I mean,
that water could react
with the Nitrium —
and it might actually
do the Enterprise in.

As I said,
with all the elements
I've studied,
there's a good side
and a bad side to them.
We might desperately need them,
but they also may somehow
do us in
if they're mixed
in the just the right way.

Because if you sit in a lab
in the twenty-first century,
you can watch this element
react with water in a beaker —
and if you're going
where no one has gone before
in the twenty-fourth century,
you might have to be sure
your Nitrium-rich ship
finds no water in space,
and finds no parasites
that may eat you
out of your only way home.

Kinds of Interference

JANET KUYPERG
STARTED 3/20/15, COMPLETED 3/21/215

Watched an episode of *Star Trek* recently,
where the Borg first transported
on to the bridge of the star ship Enterprise,
and Jean Luc Picard was then abducted —
transported to the cubical Borg ship.

And as soon as they realized
that Captain Picard was taken,
commander Riker talked
(through his little com badge)
to Chief O'Brien, and asked
“O'Brien, can you beam him back?”
And Miles O'Brien
responded that he can't, that
“there's some kind of interference.”

All O'Brien says,
this man who transports people for a living,
is that
there's
“some kind of interference.”

Hmmm.

I wonder
if it's the kind of interference
like when you tell a friend
about someone you've started dating,
and at your own party
they leave to make out with your date.

I wonder
if it's the kind of interference
when the one your love calls you,
to tell you they're getting on an airplane
on the other side of the planet,
but that a connecting flight
was just cancelled,
so they won't see you soon,
and by the way,
this phone call costs
over two dollars a minute
from the other side of the world.

That's what you get
for getting your hopes up.

I wonder
if it's the kind of interference
like when, a week before
you're supposed to stand up
in a wedding, your significant other
tells you they want to break up,
but... they understand
you're a part of someone else's wedding,
they'll tag along,
you know,
act like your date,
to not cause waves for you.

I wonder
if it's the kind of interference
that when you're driving to see you parents,
that while stopped at an intersection
you see a car speeding toward your stopped car,
so you turn your car wheels
so the crash won't kill the motorcyclist in front of you,
and what they do
drops you into a coma for weeks,
where at the hospital
they put a tub down your throat
to breathe for you.

You know,
that kind of interference.

I wonder
if it's the kind of interference
when you're finally off on your own,
and you feel like you can trust people,
and someone gets you drunk enough
to not fight back
when they sexually
get off on you.
And you later hear
of "rape rooms" in fraternity basements
that are rooms with floors
literally covered in dingy mattresses,
you know,
in case the girl falls down
as soon as they enter the room.

You know,
that kind of interference.

I wonder
if it's the kind of interference
you get after you questioned your gender preference,
started relationships with a few
until one of them
from a one night stand
gave you the Human immunodeficiency virus.
After you contracted full-blown AIDS
you cocktailed your way
through the world
with anything other than liquor,
wondering how long you'd live,
wondering if you'd ever have and raise kids.

You know,
that kind of interference.

But you know,
often when you hear
them say on *Star Trek*
that there's "some kind of interference,"
they continue by saying
"I don't have a positive lock
on the away team".
Which makes me think
of the times
when you want to find
the one you love,
and
some kind of interference
keeps you away
from your chances of finding
the one you love.

uncuffed

JANET KOOPER

9/12/15

when i was arrested
they put handcuffs
a little too tight
around my wrists
behind my back.

they put me
in the back
of their squad car,
took me to
their headquarters,

a little building
you can only get to
through the off ramp
of the expressway.

they sat me down,
uncuffed one hand,
cuffed the other
to the bench.

tried to charm them
so i might
get off easy.

looking back,
i thought it was
nothing like
the holding cells

on the Enterprise,
where prisoners
are escorted
and not handcuffed

they're escorted
to a room all their own,
with a force field
for a wall.

well,
I must have
sweet talked them,
i didn't go to jail —

but i imagine
prisons aren't as roomy

or as clean

as they are
on a star ship
like the Enterprise.

and prison bars
just aren't the same
as a force field.

#

it would have been nice
to touch
a force field,
see what it felt like.

did it hurt.

it probably would,
and would hurt more
than those handcuffs.

#

I know I have
a Dali lithograph,
a cooler one
than Kivas Fajo's,

but I didn't steal it
like he did,
before he stole Data,
before he was caught.

he thought of that
holding cell
as an exhibit
where anyone could walk by
and observe him,

like the priceless things
we all like to keep
and show off.

we all want to be the one
with the most toys,
don't we.

but no matter what
century you live in,
no matter what
fantasy world you live in,

getting caught
is never an option.

you'll only want
to be free
from that force field

or hope
your time will come
and you'll be uncuffed.

Full Stop

JANET KOYPERG
9/13/15

When you're driving down the expressway,
you see rush hour traffic slowing the lanes down,
but you look up and the car in front of you
is at a full stop,
and a lot closer than you realized.
So you slam on the brakes as hard as you can,
you feel your car shuddering and screeching
'til you feel your car rock back from the brakes
once you've come to a full stop, just in time.

In our short time here on planet Earth,
we all understand the concept of a "full stop."
In the U.K., a full stop is another term
for a period, to bring a sentence to a full stop...
But in *Star Trek*, Captain Kirk, Jean Luc Picard,
or even Commander Riker, have all been known
to tell their crew to take the Enterprise
to a "full stop."

But I have to ask: in relation to *what*?
In relation to the stellar objects nearby?
Because from what I've heard, the universe
doesn't sit still, but that everything's
expanding away from everything else.

Are we at a full stop right now, on Earth,
when the planet spins, and orbits the Sun,
and our solar system is at the edge of an arm
of the Milky Way Galaxy, spinning like mad.
And think of it — our own galaxy
is speeding away from everything *else* out there.

So what is full stop, I'd have to ask.
A full stop, in reference to what?
Because without a reference point,
we're all just moving,
faster than we can imagine.
We'll never stop.

But I mean, it *feels* like we're still,
so I guess it's all relative.
If you're in an unmoving line at a grocery store,
or if you've turned off the engines of the Enterprise,
you can at least say
that suddenly,
everything *feels*
like a full
stop.

Chicago poet Janet Kuypers is a professional performance artist, a writer, photographer, and a literary magazine editor running Scars Publications, which hosts two literary magazines, publishes books and releases CDs. With over 90 books published (as of 02/27/15 of poetry, prose, novels and art), she has sung in 3 acoustic bands, and worked with 8 music groups (combining her poetry with music. In 2010 she will begin hosting a weekly Chicago open mic *the Café Gallery*, with a weekly podcast. Her CD releases (40+ in 2012) appear at iTunes and other online vendors, found on line through <http://scars.tv> or <http://www.janetkuypers.com>.

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Sing Your Life, The Beauty and the Destruction, ccd #167.5 (Writing to Honour & Cherish, editor edition), Blister & Burn (the Kuypers edition), S&M, ccd #170.5 Distinguished Writing editor edition, Living in Chaos, Silent Screams, Taking It All In, It All Comes Down, Rising to the Surface, Galapagos, Chapter 38 (v.1, v.2 & v.3), **Finally, Literature for the Sooty and Elmo (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, Talking Poetry to the Streets, the Cane-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, Prominent Pen, (Kuypers edition), Elemental, the 2012 Databook, Prominent Tongue, Chaotic Elements, Fusion, Stability Stability Stab Stab Stab, a Picture's Worth 1,000 words (color art book and b&w art book), Life, in Color, Post-Apocalyptic, Burn Through Me, Under the Sea (photo book), Partiers Editored, Revealed, 100 Haikus, Give me the News, Let me see you Stripped, Part of my Pain, Rape Sexism Life & Death, Say Nothing, Twitterant, when you Dream tonight, Give What You Can, Down in the Dirt 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 Pines, Wake Up and Smell the Flowers, Unknow, Looking Beyond, Forever Bound, See the World Burn, Embodying on the Scars, American the Lost, Moving the Earth, Catch Fire in the Treescape, Windows in Broken Hands, Autumn Again, Up in Smoke, Symbols Manifest, He Tastes, Grounded, Perfectly Impacted, Wrapping It Up, I Pull the Strings, a Link in the Chain, Shut out of a Game, and I really cried, Home at Last, Invisible Ink, a new era, Hilda, Fiction, Sea Bells, Sulpher & Sawdust, Slate & Marrow, Blister & Burn, Rise & Repeat, Survive & Thrive, (not so) Warm & Fuzzy, Tactics & Triumph, Oh, the Elements, Side A / Side B, Balance, Chaos Theory, Writing to Honour & Cherish, Distinguished Writings, Breaking Silence, Unleashing the Mysteries, the Book of Scars, We The Poets, Life on the Edge, Revealing all your Dirty Little Secrets, Theoretic Remains, Charmed Remains, Hope & Creation, Stealing the Curve, Layers of Creation, Dark Matter, Survival of the Fittest, Crawling through the Dirt, Laying the Groundwork, Weathered, echo, ink in my blood, (boom) (4 editions), Enriched Poems, ccd Enriched Prose, Enriched with Dirt, An Open Book, Literary Town Hall (2 editions), Prominent Pen (2 editions), 100 Words, 1,000 Words, the 2012 Literary Date Book, It Was All Preordained, Cultural Touchstones, the Mission (issue edition and chapbooks edition), Purpose, Falling, Cheap Thrills, After the Apocalypse 2013 date book, After the Apocalypse (poetry edition), Entanglement, Guilt by Association, don't forget it, don't listen, read, bare minimum, Poets as Sociopaths, Drawing, Art is not Meant to be Touched, Infamous in our Prime, Annie Nin: an Understanding of her Art, the Electronic Windmill, Changing Women, the Swan Road, the Significance of the Frontier, The Sweetestvatore Unpublished, Harvest of Gems, the Little Monk, Death in Malaga, Moments in Time, in the Palace of Creation, R.I.P., Bob the Bumble Bee, Remnants and Showdown, I Saw This, the Drive, Thames at Ten, Cracking Down Unleashed, Blue Collar Ballet, respond, In Your Heart the Apoptosis's Imprints of God, the Adventures of the Key to Believing Bear, Annie Nin: an Understanding of her Art (second printing), **Pardner Kinkler / Charlie Rowan**, 12 Times 12 Equals Green, a Marble Made Poetic Barbara with a Marble Apple in her Marble Hand, Challenge of Night and Day and Chicago Poems, Lighten Up, Not From Here, Waterbird, You Have Studied Was, Avenue C, Sulbarun Rhythms, Downs Syndrome, the Dark Side of Love, the pill it is a man's best friend, Amy's syllable is a Good Boss of Dorel's Spine, Poems and Stories from The Blue Collar Book of the Dead, Get People, Death of an Angel, Ghost, Science: A Carthaginian's View, Ghost Dancers Leaping from a Tomb, the 4-D Window, Open Wounds, Anne Jaume, Intertexia, Gunther, Guts, Screem Good Island, When the World was Black and White, a Petal Under Pavement, The Holy See of CEE, Book 15 - Thankful to Volcanoes, Lost in an Echo, I Was Charles Bronson's Secret Hostage, Enscable Bond, Royal Dino's Death Scene 'tis of Thee, Understood, Akashic Shotgun, Champagne - Hot Water, How a Ballet Behaves, the Thing in the Lounge at Magon/Wheel (I Come in Avatica), Postcards from Exile, the Five Stages of Madeth, Stay in Formation

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