BAGDAD CEMETERY 2016 Poetry Bomb

RAGDAD CEMETERY

in two parts

Janet Kuypers poetry live in Leander, Texas

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frant one when the skies were sunny

Dreams 01/28/07 (seeing mom)

This is the strangest thing, I remember it vividly and I don't like to think this way and I don't want these things coming through in my dreams

I'm going to see my father in Florida in a few weeks, and in my dream it was shortly before I was going to Florida to see my father when my sister called to tell me that she just found a great price for airplane tickets to Florida, so she was going to meet me there for a day or two

and I told her it's funny, I just heard that Aunt Sally was going to visit there too

and I didn't think much of Aunt Sally telling me this even though I don't even think she has my phone number and I never see her

and besides, I didn't question why my dead mother's sister was going to meet us at my dad's house

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but the next thing I know is that I'm in Florida and I think everyone else was there too and there was music coming out of my dad's house and I think here might have been a table in the driveway for snacks and people were meeting around our house, like we were hosting an outdoor party

this hurts me so much to write this now

but mom was there, alive

she was sitting in a chair
kind of like how she'd sit in the driveway in a chair
for fifteen minutes to get some sun
I used to sit out in the driveway with her like that
but she was there, sitting in a chair
probably because the chemo made he so tired
that when she had leukemia
she didn't want to stand up

well, she was there, and people were mingling and every once in a while someone would talk to her but you know, it wasn't like everyone was amazed that she was alive, sitting there this was just a party

and no one seemed to say anything about mom and I was there for a few minutes and I saw at one point that she was sitting alone so I walked over to her

and you know, it reminded me of when we saw my mom when she first found out she had breast cancer and the sisters were with dad in the front of the house figuring out where everyone could sleep when I went to mom and get serious and asked her how she was really doing and that's when she cried and said she also has cervical cancer and she's about to have surgery for a radical hysterectomy

well you know, this moment reminded me of when I got serious and asked her how she was really doing

and I couldn't bear to ask her why she was there or how she was alive

I know how anything would make my mom cry and I didn't want to do that to her

so I finally walked over to her she looked up at me all I could say was "I love you" and mom sounded like she was just about to cry and she said, "oh, don't—"

and that's when I woke up.



There Are Too Many Poems About You, David

Please — stop killing yourself

You're changing — you may not see it but you friends and family see it

I see it

Every night
I look at the clock
and realize
you're at it again

You're killing yourself

How many days — weeks — months — will it take for you to see?

Every night I look at the clock and fear for your life

you don't know what you're doing

I loved a man that was not addicted to alcohol

I'm afraid for you

What will stop you from stealing or fighting or taking drugs?

Or slitting your wrists once again?

Every night
I look at the clock
and realize
you may be dead

I wonder if you have been dead

Every time you take a drink you push yourself over the edge

And every times I think of you the knife twists deep inside

When you kill yourself — you kill me

I care for you so much — I only wish you cared for yourself as well

Please — stop killing yourself

Why Am I Infected

Why am I infected with this terrible disease?
I grasp and reach for straws — but there is no cure but death itself

Is it a gift or more of a curse?

It is a disease that you cannot combat

Why am I infected with this terrible disease called life



Koi Ponds and Concrete

I need a new place, some hole in the wall I can call my own —

what am I saying, a home that's a hole in the wall — I want the best I can get...

So before I saw this one place, they told me I'd either love it or hate it.

So I saw the home with painted marble walls, a 30 foot tall living room wall.

And I mean, the back yard even had tropical plants and a bridge spanning

over one of two fully stocked koi ponds. Yeah, You heard me right. The place had Koi ponds.

So yeah, on first glance
I loved the place, so now
it's time to do a little research —

sure, it was in my price range, but a trailer park is right across the street.

And come to think of it, there are probably tons of code violations with the koi ponds, where the plastic retention water tanks were labeled "hazardous materials".

And speaking of code violations, all of the windows had metal gratings on them —

isn't that a fire department violation? And why did they have those metal gratings anyway?

Then I was told the neighbors were isolationists who didn't take too kindly

to strangers (who'd probably have no problem with killing people for "violating personal space").

The more I think about it, the more afraid I get when after they tell me

the house was owned by a single man, that I found one closet half filled

with women's formal dresses, and the only thing in their attic was a set of heavy restraints. And half the back yard was covered in concrete (which at first sounds great

when you have no lawn mower), but if you test that concrete yard, can you find hollow spots?

I'm beginning to think that at some point the cops will bust in

with their warrants and concrete crushers to search for dead bodies.

Now, as I said, I was looking for some hole in the wall I can call my home —

but I don't want cops digging holes in my home. Because this home should be

MY hole in the wall, and I don't want to find dead bodies everywhere

unless I put them there myself.

Golfing with George Eastman

I played a round of golf with George Eastman Now, George was going on, bragging about his game, and at the first hole my shot was pretty straight and his veered sharp to the right. And he started swearing and cussing, me and the other two guys thought he was going to pop a vein or throw a club at us. And every hole was the same: George wasn't playing well and with every shot he'd get more and more violent, more and more volatile. And finally, at the last hole, he lands his golf ball right into the water. And he stops. Perfectly calm. No jumping. No swearing. No throwing of of his golf clubs or stomping on the ground. George just shrugged his shoulders and walked toward the water. He dropped a new ball down. Not a sound. Maybe this was the one, we, thought, the one point when he realized how useless his anger was. And we watched. And George Eastman looked at the ball he dropped between his feet,

and then just started stomping, and screaming, and waving his golf club above his head, even more violent than before, as if the poor golf ball did something wrong. And back a the golf cart, the three of us, at a safe distance, stood there and laughed.

Suing NASA for Comet Play

Scars Publications, the name John J. Yotko, and the name Janet L. Kuypers were placed on a CD that went on the Impactor on NASA's Deep Impact space mission and hit the asteroid Templ 1 on July fourth, two thousand five

according to NASA, the flight was a smashing success, but a Russian astrologer is suing NASA for thirty million dollars in damages for the "moral trauma" their mission has caused her

Marina Bay said
"any variation in the orbit
or the composition of the Tempel comet
will certainly affect her own fate"
and her lawyer, Alexander Molokhov, said
"Nobody has yet proven
that this experiment was safe.
This impact could have altered
the orbit of the comet, so now
there is a chance the comet
may destroy the Earth some day!"

NASA analogized Deep Impact as to mosquito hitting the front of an airliner in flight, having no effect on the asteroid besides, NASA rests on astronomy's scientific laurels instead of using astrology to guess the future

jog hurt

Jog... Hurt. Jog, hurt.

Got a jar of yogurt on an airplane in Frankfort Germany.

It didn't say yogurt. It said "joghurt."

I've always hated jogging, so I guess this ironically titled "joghurt" is what I'll do instead.



on a bike

& we're driving along the golden gate bridge mountainside & all these people are riding their bicycles along the mountainside, slowly chugging upward & I'm thinking,
Do you do this for fun?
Really?
On a bike. Really?

I also hear that you get bothered
If people in cars park where you bicyclists park.
So that means you people have cars, right?
You drive your bicycles to this mountainside
So you can trek along
uphill
at the side of the road.
Really?



untitled 6/11/15

I was at the bar approaching 5PM & I looked out the window and saw a grey SUV that looked like a Jeep. & I thought it could have been you. I knew it wasn't, but it made me smile. The thought of you, coming to me.



superficial

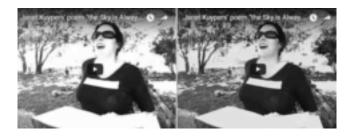
why do you want to lead such a superficial life? the bitches laughing giggling flirting suddenly make you sick a boy on each arm of those bitches those peroxide blondes with sea blue eyes and figures that hourglasses would envy bitches maybe it's because they have something you don't

The Sky Is Always Blue

This painting looks incomplete. Boring. Here. Let me put a splash of color into the

sky. But no, you say, the green looks wrong. That's not how the sky is.

But I only wanted something different. The sky is always blue. You might like it. Why do you have to say no?



Hard of Hearing

After Barbara finished the joke, everyone laughed even her brothers Dave and Brian, who never seemed to give her credit for anything she said

But then she turned to her father, who sat there cold and motionless His arms were crossed; his head was pushed down into his shoulders

His furrowed brow framed his eyes, which seemed to stare at her in contempt

"Maybe he didn't hear you, Barb," Dave finally mumbled "You know he's hard of hearing."



probably not

there were peanuts in the ashtray there were supposed to be peanut shells

there weren't supposed to be peanuts in the ashtray i wonder if someone will pick them out

probably not



saving myself

all of your life when you could have been with me you're too busy saving yourself with your religion

where weren't you really in actuality saving myself from your religion by saving myself from me



fract two

A Happy Ending To Everything

every time I look at my hands when I go out now I look at the rings on my middle fingers and they're reminders of your jewels you gave to me when you found out you were going to die

it's not as though I need reminders of what's happening to my mother but now, someone compliments me on the huge blue topaz stone on my center ring and I smile, and say thank you and say "my mother gave this to me" and not explain why

I don't bother with the details because you want everyone to think there's a happy ending to everything

as well there should be

I'll Push The Cart

every time we went to the grocery store we'd want to help her out, take the cart for her so it would be one less thing for her to worry about but she always insists, "I'll push the cart" and like me, she'd put her purse in that little basket that fold out and we figured, hey, she's the mom, she has always been in control of everything this makes sense

but after a year or two she fills us in that she wanted something to lean on because, well, she's lived a long life and she's getting older and more tired

and I think about this now after the two rounds of chemo failed to rid her blood of the cancer and my sister takes her for occasional walks while she's in a wheelchair so she at least has different sights to see

and every time I visit her now she's resting on the couch because with her platelets so low with her needing blood to rejuvenate her she's tired all the time now

so yes, she needs something to lean on

and I'm far away and I wish I could be there so she could lean on me

My Memorials To You

I see the ring you've given me when you were ready to die

I have no choice mow, whenever I go out
I wear this ring on my middle finger with this big blue topaz stone
I wear it like a badge of honor
I wear it like it's your tombstone
I wear it like I'm some sort of martyr

but I also see the ring I got from you long ago

it's a ring from dad of an ankh with a small diamond in the center signifying everlasting life and mean to signify his everlasting love for you

I've had that ankh ring
for I don't know how many years
I even remember once wearing it
when I was in California
meeting with Joe's religious parents
and I tried to make the right impression
but after the visit
Joe told me that he's sure they noticed
the pagan symbol on my finger

and I was furious, I tried to explain that ring was a symbol of my father's everlasting love for my mother but I don't think he cared and I'm sure his parents didn't care

and looking back, I'm sure people always carry all their baggage around with them and think whatever they want to think

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it's funny,
I don't wear that ankh ring so much now
mostly because I'm afraid
that I'll get that loop on top of the ankh
or that point at the bottom of the ankh
caught on something, anything
and maybe break the ring

I don't know,
I guess it's funny
how differently
I can treat
my memorials to you

Rings Like Gravestones

I like to have nice rings on my fingers
I don't have much, but I like gemstones
on my rings, I don't bother
with big earrings
or expensive necklaces
I think they're too much
but I like rings

and it makes me feel bad, in a way that my mother gave me a few of her rings knowing she was going to die and not wanting her children to argue over who gets what

so I've got these rings I like to wear but now I know for a fact that on each of my middle fingers whenever I go out in public I'll be wearing rings my mother gave me

not even ones she gave me before but ones she gave knowing she would die soon

but I wear these rings it's not like I have a choice in the matter anymore and I know that no one thinks anything of the rings I'm wearing

so I become the only one treating these rings live gravestones when no one has even died yet

This is What You Leave Me

i stare at myself in the mirror at eleven fifteen at night and think of how you're too good to die

you're the good one you're not the one that's supposed to be dying you're supposed to be the strong one you're supposed to be the one that's supposed to hold us together that's supposed to hold me together you're the one

i'm sobbing like a child now i can't hold myself together now and you're not supposed to do this to me how dare you

i know people lose loved ones but this is too young for me i know i'm not the only one to go through this but you didn't teach me anything about this

nobody teaches anyone about this

i hate the world for this and i stare at the mirror seeing myself sobbing like a child

well

well, you never saw me like this when i grew up anyway

so i guess now is the time for firsts

but i see myself in the mirror sobbing like a child for you and i think how silly of me i shouldn't cry like this

but i see myself in the mirror
i'm an adult
i know better
and think that this reflection doesn't look like you
i look more like dad
dark hair, dark eyes
wrinkles from a furrowed brow and a hard life

when you look at photos they say i look like you but right now in this mirror i look distraught not the way you are

i see the pain in my face but it's not your face it's not your hurt it's not your anger it's not anything from you but this is what you leave me

We're Trying

I don't want to tell everyone under the sun about what is happening to my mother right now, but I have to let people know why I may not be running at full speed.

So I tell people that I've have a lot on my plate recently, and I may say as much as I've just heard some terrible family news and I try to leave it at that.

But every time I tell someone something like this, I always get the same reply:

"Sorry about family news, I hope not too serious and that it gets better soon."

or

"I hope that week of bad news gets followed by a week of good."

And these well-wishers mean well, I understand that, but every time I get a response like this I want to just fall apart because no, there won't be any "week" of good news, and yes, it is serious, far too serious, and no, it won't get better soon, it will only get worse much, much worse and I can't respond to these people, I have to just bottle it all up and think, well, they're trying, it's not enough sometimes for some of us, but we're trying.

Letting Time Tick By

Janet Kuypers, 09/01/06 #2

we left for O'Hare airport early went through my automatic check-in sent my luggage off to be X-rayed

now, I had to get an earlier flight to see my father because my mother died

and although I paid coach they gave me first class so I could grieve with my family

lucky me, first class now I can drink through my depression for free

so after I dropped off my luggage I walked past the curling security line for no-line first class security

so now I'm sitting here at gate K8 for almost two hours waiting for time to tick by

lucky me letting time tick by living

Ingrained In Your Head

Janet Kuypers, 09/05/06 #1

it's strange now
I'm back visiting my parent's house
like I have done so many years in the past
and every time I'd come home
I'd pass by and look the the kitchen window
before walking to the door
and I'd see mom,
either at the kitchen sink
or maybe with her back turned in the kitchen
or else sitting in her chair in the den
watching tv

I'm used to seeing that, you know there are just some things ingrained in your head you can't help it and seeing mom there, at home seeing the outline of her hair from the lamp in the den it's just second nature to me

I wonder how long
I can keep these memories in my head
so I don't forget her

Wanting to Touch a Corpse

Janet Kuypers, 09/05/06 #3

I'm the youngest child in the family and I wasn't as close to mom as the other daughters so after dad called to tell me mom died and I told the rest of my siblings my older two sisters rescheduled their flight so they could see dad that night

I had already rescheduled my plane ticket for the next morning first hoping I'd be there in time to see mom before she died so I wasn't going to pay a ton to change my ticket again so I went to dad the next day

and mom didn't want any services she didn't want anyone to see her dead like that especially if she was getting more and more sick before she died so we held no public services for mom but we held a small service for only the family

it was hard for me to agree that for this service, and for her cremation she should wear the dress she wore to my wedding and the remains of that dress would be mingled with her ashes forever but I agreed that this could be a way to connect us

we entered the room
where her body lay
all stopped at the other end of the room
all I think too afraid to make the first steps
to see her laying in a coffin
and see her for the last time

dad finally walked to her and knelt before her cried what am I saying, we all cried

I waited for everyone else to see her to have a moment with mom, kneel before her before I went to her on my own and when I knelt before her and tried to think of what my family said, about how thin she looked, how her skin hung before she died

but she looked so peaceful there, relaxed free from pain and dressed like and angel for her private farewell she just looked asleep, like I had often seen her in her final months, but this time was was no longer sleeping to avoid the pain, she found another way out

unlike the many times I had seen her sleeping when sick she looked free of pain, free of the battle, at peace and I didn't want to stop looking at her

when she knew she was dying, I wrote her a letter telling her that I just wanted to be able to put my arms around her and hold her for a very long time to show her that I loved her, and that she meant that much to me and it was like a part of me was unable to believe

she was dead and I wanted to touch her hand, touch her cheek just make some sort of contact with her once more but but I knew I wouldn't be able to cope with feeling her cold dead skin

and my family would be shocked and mortified if I touched my mother, I knew I couldn't do it I saw the skin on her arms, the fingernails they painted so she would look pretty for us, to ease our burden when seeing our mother for the last time and knew it wasn't the skin of my living mother

I had to let her go, even if I couldn't help but keep crying

Mother's Day Flowers Forever

Janet Kuypers, 09/10/06 #1

when I live far away from my mother you'd think the generic thing to do for Mother's Day is to send her flowers you know, from flowers dot com, or ftd or something

and I thought
my mother sees flowering plants
all around her house
year round

and flowers die

so I saw silk flowers at the store in a clear glass vase with clear epoxy to look like water so it looks like the silk flowers are in water and they'll stay perfectly still in their little vase

so I did this on two years
with both my mother
and my husband's mother
and now
whenever I got to either house
I always feel good
when I see my flowers
we got them for Mother's day

you know, because flowers die and they kept these flowers from us

and now I'm back at my mother's house helping clean up having to sort all of her extra make-up from bins under the bathroom sink and being there to help my father with the collection of the ashes, the death certificates trying to keep a few mementos of my mother after she passed

and I walk into their master bedroom now to fix dad's bed for him and I see the red flowers in the epoxy-filled vase and then I walk out to the porch and I see the purple and blue flowers in the epoxy-filled vase and

and I don't know, at least my Mother's Day flowers lasted



More Painful to Experience

Janet Kuypers, 09/06/06 #1

people will think it will get easier you know, time heals all wounds or some nonsense like that

I don't know, maybe you'll cry less but I think the pain is still there and you'll never be able to shake it

but it's been eight years since the last time I encountered and unjust death like this

and you're right, I cry less now from that first death but it's still extremely wrong that it happened

and it's still extremely painful no matter how I appear to react now

I never saw the first death in his coffin but this time I saw the death, the coffin

and I'm trying to figure out which is more painful to experience it doesn't matter if it's eight years ago

or now

It's Just Not Right

Janet Kuypers, 09/11/06 #5

it's spooky it's unhealthy but I actually put the box of my mother's ashes into bed earlier today I couldn't imagine putting it anywhere else to help her rest it seems insane it seems wrong but I curled up with my mom hugged her, wrapped my arms around the box of her ashes and cried but I went to the washroom to wipe my tears to clean my face and I was then called to help my father with setting up meetings for places my mother is registered with because we have to give everyone death certificates to prove to the world that my mother is dead

but now I come back into my bedroom and I see my bed, and I see my mother's ashes tucked into bed and and it's just not right
I have to put
the box away
you know, the way
you place an urn
on a mantle
I have to do something
with it

you know, something more generic something everyone else would probably do with ashes of a loved one

but I can't think of a place to put my mother to rest so that watching my mother's ashes rest in my bed won't haunt me anymore

Janet Spinoto, Mother of 3

I knew so many people
If only I mourned so many people
I wonder if johannes remembers me
Am I supposed to cry for him?
Am I supposed to remember him?

I wish I knew of more than his name
I still respect you, to this day
Nineteen years after you died
For a cause you believed in. Or a chance moment
I'll bet. My memory of you
and a memory your grand kid remembers
This is what I'll carry with me.
And this is what I'll keep until death.

I'll always remember you this way trust me on that one I'll make it true to you and your family

Sometimes I need more words, more signals to answer all my questions and fill in all the gaps and make our lives better. Then I'll answer all the questions for me and you and everything in-between

This will be my way to save you, you know, and me, and the rest of the world. I wonder if this will be my way to make sense of you, and me - and love, and so much more.

I don't remember these details about your life and I don't remember you disintegrating before me. And before you cared about you and when it meant nothing to me.

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



Princess Diana, One Year Later

August 31, 1998

I wonder what it's like to lead a near-perfect life to have servants clean up after you or to prepare all of your meals. What if you hated everyone, including yourself, and you couldn't eat food without throwing up or

gaining weight. What would it be like if you couldn't leave your building because you might be photographed by some unknown stranger.

What must it be like to have anything you want

sometimes, and sometimes you can't have anything you could even remotely want

I wonder if that's what it's like to be royalty

That's what
it has to be like
to feel important
all the time
I wouldn't know
I wonder if any member
of royalty, on any given
morning, on any given day,

I wonder if someone like that would ever feel anything other than the usual pain that they feel would you hear from everyone that you were perfect, but would you still keep telling yourself

that you were nothing

with a question like that, with an issue like that, wouldn't anyone wonder what would win the daily battle untl then died



Driving Car Into Ditch

sometimes it just makes more sense

i mean do things make more sense to everyone else can people see the sense in anything?

maybe I shouldn't turn the wheel of my car maybe I should aim for the side of the road

maybe it could be a quick and painless death that way maybe it could



Take It All Away

September 19, 1998

What is it like to be almost on the verge of death

for a long time
I know
that seems like a silly
question
is it pointless to
actually go through it and life
for a brief moment to know
what it's like to almost fly

I found out weeks after I was in the hospital it was then that I found out little details about my being in the hospital what the doctor did to me

while I was in there and unconscious

whether or not they were helping me or hurting me I wouldn't have known I was unconscious

they put a piece of metal in my chest to stop future possible blood clots from travelling to my heart, or lungs, or brain I don't know if I need one of these pieces of metal in my body for the rest of my life,

but I can never get it out and it would have been nice if someone informed me of this after it had already been done to me

there can be all sorts of things done to you when you are at a weak moment these things being done to you could have an effect on you

good or bad

X-rays were taken of me a ventilator was on me for 6 days All I knew at the time was that most of my rights were being taken away from me and I didn't have my car and I couldn't live at home

I mean, what if one day something went wrong in your body, and while you were laying in bed to take a nap, your heart just stopped beating

what would happen to you and your life if you heart just went out, and then something just happened and then almost suddenly, what if just then you were slipping away

Okay, don't use that example, but maybe it will help you think about what it must be like to vanish

What if that happened to you

if something shocking just sort of happened to you and you made it just fine and people were worrying about you and they thought you might not make it and they had to think that you may be gone and they

had to come to terms with that

Would you clean up your room Would you stop making all of the frivolous purchases on things you don't really need Would you try to be nicer

It answers so many questions when you suddenly start to think of things that way

###

take it all away (edited)

I found out weeks after it was then that I found out details

they put a piece of metal in my body to stop blood clots

do I need a piece of metal in my body for the rest of my life,

X-rays were taken of me a ventilator was on me for 6 days All I felt was that most of my rights were taken from me

Think About It Much

what would you need done if you were going to be here no longer did you think about that one before did you think about where you wanted your money to go, or maybe that painting you bought at a flea market on the south side of Chicago, where would that go

would you want someone to be in charge of paying off your debts would you want someone to be in charge of getting your paintings published or getting your name out there after you're gone

that's a lot to think about i know but what do you do with all the unfinished business

can you even get used to the idea of being dead or do you have to plan for it in a way where you don't have to think about that much Vine video poem frm Down in the Dirt magazine's "The Breaking"



existence

you may find lack of existence appealing, but we're left in your wake



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BOOKS Report in the Atte, the Washing, Consequence and 2005 Expended Editions, Description, Description

Compact Discs: New's fourth for the does tope, Engages the land (NOF Inclairs), Wheele and Rower to becauty & the decision, It is Second Asing Seconding is Second Asing Use in Maleia, Patter & Engages Use in Alleia, Patter & Engages Use in Maleia, Patter