



Janet
Kuypers

poetry/music
show 11/5/16
live in Austin, TX

New Beginnings
Firsts and the Future

A New Life



A new life
A bundle of joy
Your flesh
Your blood
Your love
Your life
This little child
an individual
is yet
an extension
of you



A new life
A bundle of joy
Your hair
Your eyes
Your laugh
Your Cry
This little child
a separate life
is yet
an extension
of you



A new life
A bundle of you
Mirroring your smile
Reflecting your love
Being your life
This little child
this life that's new
will always be
an extension
of you



Under The Sea

I'd like to be
Under the sea
To see the fish go swim,
I'd like to squish
A jelly fish
And then let go of him.
I'd like to grab
A soft-shelled crab
And take him for a walk
I'd like to hurdle
Over a turtle
And teach dolphins to talk.
I'd like to see
A manatee
And then go play by him,
I'd like to do
All of these things
If only I could swim!



Saving Fingers and Scooping Ice Cream

One summer day in August, I was sixteen at the time, sister Sandy and I were in the house, it was an average Thursday, mom was out golfing, dad was at brother Bob's form yard, doing something man-like, cutting wood or something.

I was getting ready for a summer job interview that morning.

The phone rings, I answer it, suddenly there's this strange voice on the other line talking, asking, "Is your mother there?"

and my first instinct was that it was dad's friend Greg on the other line, he always liked to put on a fake voice and try to fool the kids. So I put on my most cordial voice and said,

"No she's not, may I take a message?"

and then the voice starts going on about how he's cut his finger and he has to go to the hospital, and then it finally occurs to me that it's my father, and he was in so much pain that he could barely speak. So he hangs up the phone and Sandy and I try to call the golf course, hoping to catch mom, but she already left, and while we waited for her to come home dad came home to get us and bring us to the hospital with him.



His hand was wrapped in a shirt,
half-soaked in blood. Sandy got
in the wagon, but she told me
to wait at home for mom. So dad
whipped the car out of the drive-
way and down the road, And I stood
in the driveway, suddenly alone,
watching him drive away.
I was so distraught, I started to
cry, but I had to keep myself
together, because I didn't want
to make it sound serious when I
told mom and make her more nervous.
I didn't want her to cry, he cut
his finger, he'd need stitches,
but he wasn't going to die.
So I waited at the front window,
and when I saw her car drive down
the road I went to the garage.
When she pulled in I hopped in
the passenger side before she
turned off the engine. "Come on,
let's go," I said, with a smile on my face.
I tried to preface the story with
"Let me just say, that everything
is fine," but you just know when
bad news is coming up. But I tried
to make it sound funny, like dad
the klutz cut his hand.
I hope I did a good job. For eleven
blocks I was the one that had to
make sure that everything was
okay, being reasonable when dad
actually lost the tips of two fingers....
And it was an interesting excuse
to explain why I was late for
my first job interview.

And I got the job at this iconic ice cream parlour -
now, only boys were allowed
to scoop ice cream there,
so my job was to work for their
brand-new candy counter.

And one day at work with the boss,
when deliveries were dropped off,
I picked up a larger box, and the owner
then stopped me. “Wait, that’s heavy —
you shouldn’t carry that.”
And I laughed, explaining that I carry
fifty pound salt blocks for our water softener,
that I’m fine.

I think maybe him seeing
that women can stand up for themselves
made it okay, in the heat of summer
when the lines are out the door for ice cream,
for me to leave the empty chocolate counter
and be the first female there
to ever scoop ice cream with the big boys.

Looking back, you may say
I’m a feminist pioneer
by being the first female to scoop ice cream there,
but when I look back, I don’t see it that way.

I just remember home-made
chocolate ice cream
with chocolate chips,
molasses bits and added fudge,
and that, my friends,
was whipped
into the perfect shake —
no matter which gender
did the job.

New Beginnings: getting married to my knight in shining armor

Once I got on my own,
I was queen of the Universe.
I had a good job, and
I had meaning and order
and direction in my life.
I used my brain,
and I was invincible.
I produced RESULTS.



I needed no one.
I thought I had it all
in the palm of my hand.

#

And once when I was driving
to visit my parents,
someone was texting and driving...
I saved a motorcyclist's
life by turning my wheels —
but I couldn't save myself
from two cars nearly killing me.



A machine breathed
for me
for days.

So much for being
queen of the Universe.



All my life
I took care of myself —
I still had the brains,
I still had the power,
but that doesn't matter
when the tech market drops
and you can't get
or keep a job.

#

And I suppose this is when
you insert the story book ending,
where a knight in shining armor
sweeps me off my feet.

But it truly only was
when I was at the bottom
that I met someone
who could bring me along
on a trip to the top

together.





Suddenly this idea of marriage
didn't seem so scary.

This is someone who is like me —
and more importantly, is different from me.

Because nobody knows
what they're doing
when they take
their first steps
together in this life...

But if you can learn to tolerate poetry,
I can learn to tolerate rifle ranges
and target practice.

You're my race car driver,
you're my motorcycle man,
like the motorcyclist I saved
the day I almost died.

Maybe you're also my reward...

So although I don't know
what will happen the day
after the day of my wedding to you,
I can't help but feel
that the road before us
must be clearing up,

and if we tackle this ocean of life together
it will be smooth sailing
all the way.



My First Time

there are some towns known for their food...

New Orleans has it's Po-Boy
Philadelphia has it's Philly Cheese Steak

and if you're in New York
and want to carry food out on a street
you better get a pizza slice
fold it in half
and eat it with one hand

And if you're in Chicago
(and you can't eat a deep-dish pizza
with one hand in the street)
you better get a Chicago-style Hot Dog
with yellow mustard, relish (the bright green kind),
hot peppers, tomatoes, onions, celery salt
and a pickle on top

I lived in Chicago all my life
frequented the tops of sky scrapers
visited legendary blues bars

but even when I was a meat eater
I never had a Chicago Hot Dog

just ketchup, please
I'll take the pickle on the side
and I don't even like hot peppers

but as we left the Planetarium today
I passed a Chicago-style hot dog vendor cart
and they listed Vegetarian Hot Dogs
as a choice for the Chicago Hot Dog

I passed it,
then I stopped.



walked back
and asked for a Vegetarian Hot Dog
with everything except the hot peppers

(and no,
ketchup is not included
when you say “everything”)

and when I got my paper-wrapped
Vegetarian Chicago Hot Dog
I was tempted to pull the pickle away
and they had to remind me, no,
that’s a part of the Chicago Hot Dog

so I put it all together
took a bite
then I took another
and another

and I thought,
I’ve been missing out on this
fantastic Chicago tradition
all my life

I heard the Chicago Hot Dogs
started during the Depression
because it was something cheap
you could sell it on the streets
and it was a full meal:
meat, bread, vegetables
all at a reasonable price

and I thought,
we Chicagoans had it all figured out
with a gooey, deep dish pizza
when you had the time to sit down
as well as a way
to make any hot dog taste awesome
when you wanted a treat on the street



Falling From the Sky

6/16/07 (11:27 A.M. mountain time)

I'm taking a one-way flight today

And you know, when people say they have a one-way ticket
You assume the plane

is landing them somewhere

And not flying them back

But lucky me, my only way back
Is to jump out of the sky

And hope I land on my own two feet

And my flight takes off
In just a little while
And I can feel that tension knot
That knot's rope, being pulled
By all my nerves



And like it was heartburn
I want to slam my fist into my chest
To try to make the pain go away

So I've spent all my life
Trying to soar so high

But I guess I have to be prepared
For coming back to earth



In Love I Abide

well you started a commotion when you walked in the place
I was flooded with emotion when I first saw your face
So I had to find out if there was a chance we could be
But I couldn't understand how you could only want me

and as time went by my love grew stronger than before
but I never dreamt I'd get what I was wishing for

so don't be afraid
to let your feelings show
because our love has stayed
and I won't let you go

in love I abide
for to love I am bound
and I'll stay by your side
with this love that I've found

well you parted all the people when you walked in the room
when i saw your ice blue eyes i knew you would be mine soon
but i couldn't understand how i fell for you so fast
and i only hoped our feelings for each other would last

well do you believe that fate could make us feel this way
because i know that a love like this is gonna stay

so don't be afraid
to let your feelings show
because our love has stayed
and I won't let you go
in love I abide
for to love I am bound
and I'll stay by your side
with this love that I've found



Questioning Creativity through the Cosmos

when I think of the future,
I think of astronomy,
space, the final frontier —

and you better believe
that outer space is so poetic
and all about the art.

NASA even had an artist in
residence, who learned
that astronomers estimate

the moon's orbit every year
pulls the moon farther
and farther away from the earth...

So if you remember the moon
looking so big when you were young,
well, you may have been right.

Because if I think about it,
maybe I'm not a writer,
maybe I'm not an artist —

maybe I'm an observer, like
an astronomer, learning what
makes everything everything

because molecule by molecule,
we originate from stars, and that
makes us all linked by stardust.



And like all star gazers
who love astronomy,
I assume I'll never

actually go into outer space.
But it occurred to me:
I have,

Ever talked on the radio?
Ever appeared on tv?
Because all of those signals

are shot out into space,
they continue past our earth.
towards the ends
of the universe.

I wonder what other stars
have seen and heard
my poetry by now, and

I wonder if anything out there
can decode our signals
and understand what we say.

So I keep looking at the images
from Hubble, the mind-boggling
colors from galaxies and nebulas...

But NASA's artist in residence
talked about those telescope photos.
Because when images come in,

they're all completely digital
(a series of ones, a series of zeros)
and there's no color at all.

Astronauts describe the cosmos
as a vast black void —
so scientists guess from the data

how outer space should look.
So they guess from radiation data,
when red is hot and blue is cold,

to make the images look the best.
These outer space images are beautiful,
but now, they're literally an art form.

The final frontier could be creative.
Look at the evidence:
imaging in astronomy

is actually existential art.

New Beginnings firsts and the future

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Magazines: Children, Churches and Daddies (6&4 magazine), founded June 1993, Down in the Dirt, conceived 1994, founded 2000

Books: *Hopsi Chant in the Arts, the Windows, Cross Over Before Striking (Women), Autumn Bazaar, Contents Under Pressure, the Average Guy's Guide to Fantasy, Changing Gears, the Key to Believing, Domestic Matters, Etc., Occure, Exam Verus, L'Arto, The Other Side, The Boss Lady's Editorial (regular and 2005 Expanded Edition), Duality, Seeing Things Differently, Change/Overturn, Death Comes in Threes, Moving Performances, Six Horses, His of Cafe Mida, Occure, Rough Hides, The Entropy Project, The Other Side (2006 Edition), Stop, Stop Your Life, The Beauty and the Destruction, c@d v167.5 (Writing to Honor & Cherish, other editions), Writer & Hero (the Kuypers edition), 5408, c@d v170.5 Distinguished Writings other edition, Living in Chosen, Silent Screens, Taking It All by It All Come Down, Hiding to the Surface, Galapagos, Chapter 58 (v1, v2 & v3), Finally, Literature for the Society and Arts (v1, v2 & part 1), a Walk-Up Call from Tumbler, (re-writes), Dark Matters: the Mind of Janet Kuypers, Revolution, (re-writes), Not Your Best Or, Janet & Joan Together, go on, Taking Poetry to the Streets, the 1930s-1960s Old-time Blues, the Written Word, Poet, Progress Bar for Time, Memories, Living in a Big World, Poet the Village, Women to the Endgame, Janet Kuypers Revisited, She's an Open Book, "409", Sustain and Other Stories, the Stories of Women, Prominent Post (Kuypers edition), Homestead, the 2012 Postcard, Prominent Tongue, Classic Elements, Poems, Shaky Stability She's She's, a Poet's Worth 1,000 words (not art but art and how art looks), Life, in Color, Post-epiphany, Run Through Me, Under the Sea (photo book), Partially Hidden, Revealed, 100 Hides, Give me the Hives, Let me See you Stripped, Part of my Pale, Rags Sustain Life & Death, Say Nothing, Twentieth, when you Dream tonight, the Poetic Table of Poetry, your long Journey, Don't Verge, Sulphur & Sordid, Slate & Marrow, Bitter & Burn, Rise & Repeat, Survive & Thrive, (not so) Warm & Fuzzy, Torture & Triumph, Ok, the Elements, Side A/Side B, Balance, Choo's Theory, Writing To Honor & Cherish, Distinguished Writings, Breaking Silences, Unlocking the Mysteries, the Book of Stars, the We Poets, Life on the Edge, Revealing all your Dirty Little Secrets, Decapit 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, eds, ink in my blood, (4 editions), Enriched Poetry, c@d 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 Touchstone, the Mission (3rd edition and chapbooks edition), Purpose, Falling, Cheap Thrills, After the Apocalypse 2013 date book, After the Apocalypse (poetry edition), After the Apocalypse (prose edition), Entertainment, Gault by Association, don't Forget It, don't Forget, read, five minutes, Part of a Soapdish, Drawing Art, is Not Meant to be Touchd, the Boston Park, a New Pen, Need to Know Dates (revised edition and extended edition), the "need to know" 2013 literary date book, one Solitary Word, What Must be Done, Adity, Salvation, the 2014 literary date book anthology, the Chosen Few, Sanjiva in the Sanctuary, from Simile, the Intersection, a Stormy Reunion, Crawling Over My Blood, Infamous in our Prime, Anis Nil, an Understanding of her Art, the Electronic Windmill, Changing Women, the Swan Road, the Significance of the Frontier, the Svetovarski Uspomenik, Harvest of Gains, the Little Monk, Death in Miago, Moments Mori, in the Palace of Creation, R.I.P., Bob the Bumble Bee, Remnants and Showdown, I Saw This, the Drive, Thomas at Tea, Creating Down Nineteenth, Blue Color Ballet, noisium, in Your Heart the Apoptosis's Tendrils of God, the Adventures of the King to Believing Bear, Anis Nil: an Understanding of her Art (second printing), **Deardar Rider / Charlie Newman**, 12 Times 12 Equals Gross, a Marble Made Pauline Barthes 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, Downs Syndrome, the Dark Side of Love, The pill is a man's best friend, Angel'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, Ghost, Science: A Carmudgeon's View, Ghost Demons Leaping from a Tomb, the 4-D Window, Open Wounds, Annie Jackson, Interstice, Continuer, Cars, Screen Crawl Island, When the World was Black and White, a Petal Under Pressure, The Holy Sea of CEE, Book 15 "Thailand to Volcanoes, Lost in an Echo", When Charles Brooker's Secret Passage, Eretnak, Royal Dons's Death Scene '16 of This, Understood, Akashic Shortcuts, Champagne - Hot Water, How a Rabbit Behaves, the Thing in the Lounges at WagonWheel (I Come in America), Postcard from Ede, the Five Stages of Macbeth, Stay Formation, Shadowing Other Footprints, the Girl Next Door and Other Poems, Major Arcane, Sin Poetica Nulla est Gloria, Short Takes, Seeing Strangers, Re-Viewing Anals, The Tribes Joshua Drove Out of the Land, Butchery of the Innocent, Hammered-on Nail - No Ooze, Cancing the Abyss, a notion of essences with guns, the Beating Heads of 100 Drummers, Make the Wind, the Planner, the Corruption, The Pyre On Which Tomorrow Burns, Cowboy Hats and Railways, Give What You Can, Come Fly with Me, Out of the Web, Don't Tread on Me, Entering the Ice Age, Entering the Ice Age, the Line to Power: Fear the Forks, Falling into Place, Unknown, Forever Bond, Exploding on the Scene, Moving the Arts, Autumn Again, Up in Smoke, No Return, Wrapping It Up, Link in its Chain, Shot out of a Cannon, Inscible Ink, a ew, Ideals, Friction, Sex Drift, and Then it Moved, Approaching Front, Beyond the Gates, the Curve of Arctic Air, Haze, a Mind Escape, Treatment, the How Dead, the Captive and the Doer, When the Walls are Paper Thin, Nighttime City, Suggested Torture, Down in the Dirt '04, Clearing the Debris, skeletal Remains, When the World Settles, Along the Surface, Into the White, Life..., from Nothing, Down to It, Wake Up and Smell the Flowers Before They, See the World Burn, America the Land, Catch Fire in the Treetops, Windows in Broken Hairs, Symbols Manifest, Grounded, Perfectly Imperfect, I Tell the Springs, am I really excited, Home at Last, Sprilling, a Rural Story, Treading Water, Black Cat, a Bad Influence, Too Many Miles, the Path of Last Resistance, hallelu goodbyes goodbyes hallel, When the Walls are Paper Thin, Planets Apart, Planets Apart, Nighttime City, the Breeding, Suggested Torture, New moon, a Perfect Solitude, 6 Feet Under, the Hive, the 23 Enigma, Suicidal Birds, Being Red, the Blind Eye, the Bolic the Effort the Yell*

Compact Discs: *Man's Favorite Haze the demo tapes, Kuypers the Real (MP3 Inclusive), Woods and Flowers the beauty & the destruction, The Second Acting Something's Something, The Second Acting Live in Alaska, Pottus & Kuypers Live in Cafe Alpha, Poems Orchestra Rough Mixes, Kuypers Seeing Things Differently, 20/20 Tick Tock, Kuypers Omega Baroque, Older From Glass: The Entropy Project, Kuypers Sh, One Day, Kuypers Stop, Kuypers Material Performances mp3 CD, Kuypers Death Comes in Threes, Kuypers Changing Gears, Kuypers Dreams, Kuypers How Do I Get There?, Kuypers Context-Critical-Critical, the DMJ Art Connection the DMJ Art Connection, Kuypers Questions in a World Without Answers, Kuypers SW, Kuypers WEED Radio CD set, Man's Favorite Haze and the Second Acting These Truths, ancestral art's Sing Theory (On Audio CD), Life in the Cafe (3 CD set), the DMJ Art Connection Indian Flux, the DMJ Art Connection Music Progressive or Something, Classic Radio Classic Radio Work #1, Classic Radio Classic Radio Work #2, Classic Radio Classic Radio Work #3, Classic Radio Classic Radio Work #4, Classic Radio Classic Radio Work #5, Classic Radio the Classic Collection Collection (01-05 (5 CD set), (audio CD, 2 CD set), Classic Elements (2 CD set), Class in Motion (6 CD set), 20/20 Something in a High (EP), PR&L Two for the Price of One (EP), Kik, Jade and Haystack: An American Parable, Kuypers:the Restored Ties/Petal Bakes/An Autumn Paveses Ties Fusion (4 CD set), Kuypers Live (4 CD set), the DMJ Art Connection the Thing 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 Halmers of South Africa Burn Through Me (2 CD set), Kuypers' 407, Kuypers Sixteen and Other Stories, Kuypers the Stories of Woman (amazon.com release), Kuypers "Dobro Več" (4 CD set), Kuypers "Anima" (4 CD set), Kuypers "Laying It All Out", Kuypers "What We Need in Life" (CD single), Kuypers "Made Any Difference" (CD single), Kuypers/Herbert's "Across the Pond" (3 CD set).*