

## DUSTY DOG REVIEWS, CA (ON THE CHAPBOOK “DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY GREETING CARDS”)

Ms. Kuypers shows us that, in certain circumstances, each person is an enormously authoritative reality to each other person...Ms. Kuypers is adept at creating an emotional layering.

THE REMAINS  
the New

unreleased  
unreleased  
writings

{the new}

1998-2003

## VENTURE TO THE UNKNOWN

People ask me what it's like to be in space, see a new planet.  
it's hard to explain all of the details,  
there are so many you forget,  
like when you see the sun in the sky,  
you even see Earth in the distance,  
it is still dark where you are.  
the Earth's atmosphere makes the sun's light omnidirectional  
but here the sky is black too, even during daylight.  
Without the Earth's atmosphere  
the stars are always out,  
there are so many stars in the sky,  
so many asteroids,  
you can even see the dust in the air.  
The Earth's atmosphere is insulation  
that stops us from seeing all in the universe.

When we go for mission walks,  
every step disturbs the land.  
Dust and dirt explodes with every motion

It's a fragile, delicate balance we try to strike  
when we venture out into the unknown.

## FREEDOM JUST PAST THE FENCE

After working for the Army  
for years on repairing jet engines  
I ended up being stationed  
in Pennsylvania one summer  
repairing air conditioners  
and refrigerators.  
I'd only do a little work  
and then have nothing to do  
for a day or two.  
But the thing I remember  
is that at the time Cubans  
were defecting to the United States  
by boat.  
They'd sail to Florida,  
most of them dehydrated  
and all of them malnourished.  
The U.S. government  
didn't want them spreading diseases  
in our country,  
so when the Cubans would appear  
off the coast of Miami,  
the military would be waiting  
to make sure they were healthy.  
Well, all I knew  
was that they got all these Cubans  
into trucks we called 'cattle cars'  
with only a few benches  
and trucked them up to Pennsylvania,  
where I was,  
and the military gave them some shots  
to make sure they weren't dying.  
So these people, after  
escaping their country  
in a shoddy wooden boat  
were taken by the U.S. military,  
herded into a boxed-in truck  
and shipped up the country  
so they could be given shots

and detained.  
These Cubans,  
who came here wanting freedom,  
now had to wait  
in a fenced-in area  
until they were tested  
and given food.  
And it was my job  
to make sure that  
their fridge and  
air conditioner was working.  
So I sat there for  
a day or two at a time,  
drinking cans of beer,  
and looking out my window.  
I had a view of the razor wire fence  
and all I remember  
was seeing all of these Cubans  
leaning on the chain-link fence,  
wondering if this was what it was like  
to be free,  
holding on to the metal,  
looking out to what they were sure  
was freedom.

## MILITARY POLICE

There are times like this  
when I like to think  
I'm free of you

I tackle other obstacles every day  
the thought of you doesn't cross my mind  
and sometimes, you know,  
I have a good day  
and I face adversity  
and I accomplish things  
and well, I feel good

and it's nice to know  
that you had nothing to do  
with making me feel good

I have a ton of things to do today  
and I was having technical difficulties  
and I had to figure out how to overcome them  
and you know, I did everything I could  
and I think I ended up ahead of the game  
and it had nothing to do with you  
and I feel like I've accomplished things today  
and I feel like I'm ahead of the game  
and it makes me feel good

and it makes me pause and smile, you know,  
you little fucking prick  
it makes my stop and start to smile  
when I think about all that I have done  
and all that I can do  
and it's all despite you

## CHANGING CITY

this is a place I once wanted to live in  
a place that cocoons you so soundly

I suppose you're past me now  
    you wouldn't have it any other way  
but I swear, I wasn't even looking for something else  
I didn't even know what I was looking for  
because, you know, I'd like to think I'm past you too

It is amazing how much changes  
    between you, between me  
    but not between us  
growth will do that to you, you know

and I go to the places I knew in this town  
and I look at their changes  
and I look at them now in a different way

## START ALL OVER

I want to be rinsed of all of this, I tell you, and  
I want to be a newborn all over again and  
I want to have your blood dripping all over me and  
I want someone to come along and  
    clean me off and  
    smack me on the butt and  
I want to start all over again

Is it your blood that I want?  
Do I want someone to guide me through the birth?  
Do I want to even start all over again?

## GETTING QUITE GOOD AT IT

I'm getting quite good at the  
roles I have had to play in my life

I have had to put so many faces on  
that I am beginning to look like a clown  
I am beginning to feel like a clown  
and I am beginning to wonder if anyone notices

Someone told me once  
that they could not lie,  
that they were terrible at it  
and I looked them in the eye  
and told them that I had gone through a lot  
in my life  
and that a lot of things have hurt me in my life  
and I told them about how someone had hurt me  
and it still hurts  
and I almost cried while I told them this  
and they felt sorry for me

and I told them,  
that the story I just told them  
that it was all a lie

I told them that so they would know  
when it is possible to cover up the truth  
and get away with it

and when that becomes a part of your repertoire  
when that becomes one of your faces

well, when you get to that part  
you can get quite good at  
doing whatever you want

## WHAT WOMEN WANT

do you want to know the secret to understanding what women want  
because I can tell it to you, it's simple, really

all women want is for their lover to know what they need  
without them have to ask, and without them having to tell

oh, and yes, for you to do it, too, that's the other part of it  
they want men to know what to them seems obvious

but you men, you can't do what they want even when they tell  
you what they need, point blank, and there's no guessing game

which, you know, when they tell you, you've lost half the battle  
but the least you could do is make it up in the second half

it's the least you could do to tell them you love them  
and hold them and be their knight in shining armor

they know you're not riding up on a white horse coming  
to sweep them off their feet and ride off into the sunset

but throw them this bone every once in a while, give them  
the scraps from your plate under the table, just a little something

they're yelping under the table hoping you understand their pleas  
they're shivering in the dog house when they should be by your side

because they're starving over here, and it seems that only you  
can give them what they need, much less what they want

it's simple, really: they need attention, they desperately need it  
and they're tired of asking, because they shouldn't have to ask

this is the key to understanding what women want, so please  
do something with this knowledge and save the one you love