



5/18/13

TAG TEAM READING

**JANET KUYPERS POETRY
READ LIVE IN NASHVILLE**

Now You're Nothing To Me

Janet Kuypers

love is like tap water
free flowing
remember when you were little,
just put a glass under the faucet
quench your thirst

wait a minute,
it's not like that
water isn't free
you even have to pay
for the water in your own home
and
it's not even clean

what you're getting is dirty
and you still have to pay for it

#

you know, they say us humans
are like seventy-five percent water

and when I think of you
and all the time we were together

well, if you're seventy-five percent water
I have to remember
that it wasn't pure and clean and clear
and if this is love, and this was you
it wasn't free
I'm still paying for it

#

when I now think of you
the fact that you made me feel like nothing
and when I think of what you now mean to me
when I think of what you're made of
I have to remember

we're all made of atoms
protons and neutrons wound tightly together in the nucleus
 apparently infinitely small
surrounded
at a comparatively vast distance
 by occasional tiny electrons
spinning around
keeping their distance
 almost like fluff

in a way,
you're like that electron, you know
Spinning around
but keeping your distance

but when I think of you
I have to remember
that you're made of those atoms
with really tiny cores
and those atoms are so filled with space
that you're mostly made of nothing

when I think of you
this is what I have to remind myself

when I think of the nothingness you made me feel
and the fact that you now mean nothing to me
this is how I have to think of you

Knotted Hate

Janet Kuypers

I can't see my dying friend
because his relative
fat rich bitch
calls me selfish
because I wouldn't instantaneously
give away what money I don't have
to his employed wife

how selfish of me,
The one without a job
trying to keep myself out of debt

okay, girl
you can't tell her how wrong she is
and you can't tell her how
she is truly the self-centered one
so knot up the hate
add it to that tight little ball
that's been growing inside you
all these years

you remember what it's like:
you didn't want to know the names
of the people
who hit your car
when you were stopped at an intersection
when you were doing nothing wrong
but being a sitting duck
and were almost killed

waiting for that final shot
from the hunter,
looking for his final kill

you know people will listen
right after you're attacked
by an ex-gang member

but when you're underlyingly taught
That things like sexual abuse are your fault,
well, that's when you have to add
more emotion to the knot

that ball of hate
has been growing
since that acquaintance rapist ex of yours
made your hate flourish
with more phone calls,
cards, letters,
even recorded audio

his stare scared you
and you feared the tears
if you saw him in the distance
on the street

you swallow your tears
and stifle your hatred
when even the thought of him
instigated the constant pain
and the medical clinic
for round number one
of body-harming medications
since the American solution
to solving all health problems
is popping a pill

“that’s from the barbed wire”

Janet Kuypers

she had skin of silk
smooth and strong
beautiful to touch

with silk around you
you always get warm
feel warm
you can’t escape it

I watched her skin
her silken exterior
and saw occasional rips
small spare tears
with little dots of blood
tracing the edges

I had to ask

and she told me
“oh,
that’s from the barbed wire”

and I suddenly
internally panicked
what did they do to her
how did they hurt her
...or was she trying
to escape
their potential torture

how could they destroy
this silken beauty
how —

then I wondered
where the barbed wire
was
I wondered where
the torture was

and then I wondered
if the barbed wire
was inside her
trying to tear her
silk
trying to break its way
out

Trying to Change Fate

Janet Kuypers

the way a weight on a stretched elastic cloth
can move and distort the fabric of the cloth
everything in existence
can distort space in the universe

i've been wrapping my head around this,
that gravity isn't the strong one
but gravity's a consequence
of the distortion of space and time

the larger the distortion of space and time
the bigger effect you see in gravity

so as sci-fi media talks of warp travel
all they're really talking about
is producing the energy to warp space-time
so you instantly arrive
at the other end of the universe

because with all that energy,
the other end of the universe
comes to you

i've been wrapping my head around this,
using dark energy to bend time and space
and i keep wondering what i could do
if i knew when and where
to get away from where
i was, get to where i need to be

would i have learned my lesson
and not come to you
when you, the ex-gang member
strangled me

would i have come to you
in the middle of the night
called an ambulance
before your heart attack
keeping you alive

would i instantly arrive
that one fateful saturday
to go swimming
instead of waiting in traffic,
being almost killed
while stopped on the road

would I come to you
despite the hurricane
to hold you once
before you let death consume you

wait, i know us,
i was your daughter,
but i was never close enough to you
to hold you

i should know better
than to contemplate bending space-time
trying to change fate

September 11, 2001

Janet Kuypers

i remember my husband
getting ready for work
and i walked to the tv in the den
and i thought he was watching a movie

he said,
i don't think this is a movie

i think the world trade center
has been struck

and we stared at the television
and watched a plane fly into the second tower

and then watched the towers collapse

i can't even remember
if my husband went to work that day
as i just stared at the tv

it took two days to get through
to everyone

my friend and one brother-in-law
rescheduled Pentagon meetings
and we tried to call his sister
in shanksville pennsylvania
our nephew heard news reports
say this if flight ninety-three
landed thirty seconds later
the plane would have hit his school
my brother-in-law in new jersey
was supposed to be
in the world trade centers
for meetings that day
but you see, he decided
not to go to the meeting

lucky him

and i remember watching the tv
like i was some sort of zombie
thinking this was bigger then Pearl Harbor,
more people died,
this wasn't a military base,
i had to do something
 maybe i could go there
 i'd traveled around
 the country by car before
 i could drive this
 maybe i could stay
 with my husband's brother in jersey
 and train into manhattan

my husband couldn't go,
he had to go to work
so i took off on my own,
paid the tolls on i eighty
even forgot my camera
got to his brother's place
after one in the morning

he told me what train to take,
but said half of the subway lines
have to be closed

so i trained from jersey as far as I could
but I couldn't get close
but i thought,
i walked seven miles to work
that's no problem
and hour and a half
i can do that

i thought i could buy an
instant camera
at some small shop
on my walk to ground zero
and maybe i could take a film canister
so i could collect some of the building dust
because someone gave me ashes
from the mount saint helen's eruption
and i thought,
i lived through this
i should bring something back with me
i should
i should something
but every store was closed
when i tried to walk
anywhere that day
and everything was congested
businesses seem closed,
but you still couldn't go anywhere

so over four hours later
i got to ground zero
i was wearing gym shoes and jeans
had a bottle of sealed water
in my back pack purse
and wanted to get in to try to help
i don't know,
to shovel things out of the way,
to something

but no one had maps
of where everything was
there were so many people there
trying to help
that they told me
that the best way i could help
was to just clear the way
so people could do their jobs

and i just stepped back,
unable to do anything,
 unable to collect anything,
 unable to photograph anything,
only able to stare,
like i was watching it on my tv

###

i used only lowercase writing this
even when i said “i”

i'm only lowercase

when i watched the news
on that first day
they showed people
jumping out the windows
 these silhouettes of people
 looked like floating paper
 in a ticker tape parade
 in all the debris floating around
 i had to keep telling myself,
 “these are people”

and when i looked around
at all of the remains
from these towering office buildings
i thought of the dust
i was breathing in
i thought
i'm breathing in drywall
i'm breathing in paperwork
i'm breathing in people

so yes, i'm only lowercase
after what i've seen around me
i'm nothing

Dream 12/24/05:

Aeon Flux Crawl

Janet Kuypers

We were out of town,
I don't know for how long,
And someone told us
That we could stay at this other
 really cool house
For another night
If we needed a place to stay

You see, the owners of the house
Were out of town
For at least another day,
So it would be okay
If we stayed there

Now, I don't think
We were actually
 allowed to stay there
So we had to keep the lights off
And keep quiet

All I remember is being upstairs,
And everything was open,
Seeing the floor-to-ceiling windows
And seeing people outside
 must have been neighbors
Enjoying the night air
And partying outside

So I was crawling along the hallway floor,
Trying not to be seen,
But I was being sly, crawling
With my hands on the ground,
But keeping the rest of my body in the air
 you know, for ease of movement, I suppose,

But I had to look like I was
Crawling around like Aeon Flux
In that MTV movie
That wasn't true to the cartoon storyline,
Crawling, but not touching the carpet
As if the pieces of carpet
Were like millions of individual
Blades of glass

But all I know is that
I was doing
This levitating Aeon Flux
Crawling thing
To try to see around the house
And not get seen

»»

But I thought people were far enough away,
And we were told we could use the house,
 we didn't break in, someone let us in,
And I think I saw a Jacuzzi in the back yard
So I went to tell you,
So we could enjoy the hot water.
But I found you, in the master bedroom bed,
Sound asleep.

»»

Of course, I'm crawling around
Like Aeon Flux,
And you're sleeping.

Dreams 01/19/04 Two

Dream One: Dog Stuck to my Face

Janet Kuypers

There was an open area,
kind of like a cafeteria,
and women were at it,
all gossiping and stuff,
and they had a dog with them.
They were trying to
show the dog love,
and the dog was being affectionate,
not never getting too close
(kind of like how my cat Zach
will be, like to be near you,
but doesn't need to always be
close enough for you to hold).
Then I walked up, and I thought,
"hey, this dog loves me
(it was a little, friendly dog),
this dog will want to come to me"
so I walked up to the table,
get between a chair and the table,
and called for the dog. The dog,
instantly got onto the table and
came running up to me,
started licking my face,
and the next thing I know
the dog managed to somehow,
while licking my face, he
managed to start sucking on my cheek,
and made a suction on my face,
so this dog was then stuck to my face
(I don't know how a dog can make
a suction with their mouths,
the way their mouths are shaped,
but that's what he did).

I just started trying to
gently push the dog away,
because I didn't want to be forceful,
but the dog was stuck there
and wouldn't move.
So I said, "hey, help me,
this dog is stuck to me,"
after I stepped away from the table,
and this dog stayed stuck to my face.
Now he was just hanging from my face
without even standing on anything.
No one had panicked
because a dog was stuck to me face yet,
but this is when I woke up.

Terrorism Intelligence

Janet Kuypers

terrorism has been growing for years
one year before nine eleven
Iraqi terrorist Khay Rahnajet
mailed a letter bomb
but didn't use enough postage

his letter bomb came back to him
marked "return to sender"

Khay Rahnajet opened the letter bomb,
blowing himself up in the process

Counting Bodies

Janet Kuypers

tried to get a job at the mall
they never returned my call

applied for a job in a strip store
I filled out the form, but my problem

is that I answered the questions honestly
when they ask if you've ever done drugs
it's best to lie

even applied for a job in a liquor store
now, I have experience in drinking

but not in stocking bottles
or cleaning liquor store floors

so someone said that the government
was looking for employees

they need you to walk the streets,
ask questions, keep records

and I thought, I'm organized
I work hard, I can do this

and a government job would be sweet
they pay really well

and it would be funny to say
that I was a government employee

so I got on line, learned about the census
all I'd be doing was walking around

making a list, checking it twice
I'd be in charge of counting the bodies

as sick as it sounds,
it has a certain ring to it

so I called to schedule my evaluation,
went to the government building early

found out I wasn't even on the map
they looked for employees from

but I took the test anyway,
struck the icicles as I left for my car

I thought about the records
the Greek Kings, the Greek government kept
of the men they executed

I thought about the detailed Nazi records
of Jews working in camps, of Jews gassed

and how we had to come in
and count the bodies

and I thought
hmmm

I never was called from the census bureau
it was like they knew my mind:

“you filled out your forms
we don't need you for anything else”

and I thought
hmmm

maybe I shouldn't have applied for this job
maybe I shouldn't be working for the government

maybe they knew I shouldn't be a part of their system
falling into line and counting bodies

Keep Them Apart

Janet Kuypers

they say headlights run in parallel lines
the never touch
but you know,
when humans try to recreate science
they never get it right
and i don't care how many miles it takes
i don't care how long it takes
but eventually
they will touch
they will cross
they will intermingle for one brief moment

you think they're meant to stay apart
you think you've done everything humanly possible
to keep them apart

but they'll come together
trust me

it doesn't matter where that car is traveling
to Colorado, through Utah
to California to Las Vegas
even through Texas, past New Orleans
it doesn't matter if we have to kick people out of your home
it doesn't matter if we have to act like nothing's going on
because at some point,
no matter how far away
no matter how remote
we'll get together

even if it's only to cross each other
then go or separate ways

Got on the Road Again

Janet Kuypers

I had slept in my car
waiting to see you

after scrubbing my clothes
with a small bar of soap in a sink
in some no-name hotel
I drove across the country
 my clothes held down
 by closed windows at the seams
 as American roads dried my clothes
And it made me ready for you

you greeted me with cosmopolitans
and casinos that harmonized
their winning and losing chimes

and it was harmonizing
when I won with you

but I had to pack up again
this is what I do, you know
so I gathered my clothes
saved them for the suitcase
and got on the road again

Vegetarian Stands by the Meat Sale

Janet Kuypers

it's raining out,
and no one wants to be outside.
and if they *do* come here,
they just want to get the bare essentials
and get home as quickly as they can.
they surely don't want to contend
with *me*, just trying to make a living.

a huge clock looms at the opposite wall.
i keep glancing at the time, and think
of the huge calendar looking over new york
in *Atlas Shrugged*, as everyone is reduced
to merely trudging through their days.

someone just wished me good luck,
because i think everyone would rather be
sleeping than here. and it's true.

i just glanced at that clock again.
i'm only one eighth the way
through my day. and this woman
who has chosen to not have children
has to keep smiling despite the weather
and fawn over every passing child i see.
this vegetarian stands next to the sign
saying "hot ham" is the deli sale today,
as employees place baked and fried chicken
in packages for sale behind me.

i try to smile, because it's my job,
even though it's raining outside,
as the second hand on the clock clicks
more slowly today.

On All Fours

Janet Kuypers

you sit and you work at your desk when you're home
it's like you're not here when you're here
when you're lost in your work
but i've noticed one thing
whenever the cat comes near your desk
struts around your leg, maybe meows
you stop what you're doing
to give him some attention

sometimes the cat'll even jump on your desk
put his paw on the book you're reading
to see if you'll scratch him behind his ears

so i wonder if this is what i have to do
i'll crawl over to your desk on all fours
rub my head against your leg
to see if you'll stop your work
and notice me

Made Any Difference

Janet Kuypers
(poetry sung to music)

So I'm at my bar my favorite hang-out
I just overheard from people talking

that another guy who's always here
in the past few months has had a few strokes

and this is grapevine I just heard snippets
but I needed to see him put in my two cents

he went out for a smoke and even though I don't
I walked up to him after he lit up

I reached my hand out toward his smoke
he offered me a new one but... I wanted his

then holding his smoke I told him I heard
I spoke of his wife asked about his kids

and I don't want to get on a high horse
but we care for him we want him happy

he said I was right he'll take some time off
then he saw his smoke said that he should quit

handed me the smoke and then walked away

I stood there a while sucking nicotine
wondering if I made any difference

Neodymium

Janet Kuypers

bonus poem from the “Periodic Table of Poetry” series
(#060, Nd) sung to music by John Yotko

I am drawn to you, you pull on me so,
I just think of how you're so magnetic.

With your electric charge, my motor's going,
you get me charged up thinking it's a game...

You use my favorite gems, Garnet and crystals,
and you make every point seem laser clear.

You're focus must be why I'm so drawn to you
I must come to you until you're near.

And now you know how I love my glassware,
so I was sent to a glass blowing lathe,

and the glass blowers were making glassware
with you on their eyes so they could see.

They loaned me their specs, I put them on —
and through the green-grey specs the flame was gone.

I did a double-take — there was no glare —
leaving me to see just molten glass.

'Cause on those glasses, you weren't alone —
you worked in pairs there so we could see.

'Cause to the Greeks you are a new twin,
that's where together's how you fit in...

And all of this time I was drawn to you
but now you've proven you can help me see.

"In", "Mabdhum", "Scas" and "Children, Churches and Daddies" were also performed live during this evening.

5/18/13

TAG TEAM READING

JANET KUYPERS

[HTTP://WWW.JANETKUYPERS.COM](http://www.janetkuypers.com)

SCARS NOLLYVOTIUND

[HTTP://SCARS.TV](http://scars.tv)

published in conjunction with **cc&d** magazine
the UN-religious, NON-family oriented literary and art magazine
ccandd96@scars.tv <http://scars.tv/ccd>
ISSN 1068-5154 INTERNET ISSN #1555-1555

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Magazines:

Children, Churches and Daddies (cc&d magazine) founded June 1993; Down in the Dirt, conceived 1994, founded 2000

Books:

Hope Chest in the Attic, the Window, Close Cover Before Striking, (Woman), Autumn Reason, Contents Under Pressure, the Average Guy's Guide (to Feminism), Changing Goats, the Key to Believing, Domestic Blisters, Etc., Ouyero, Exora Versus, L'arte, The Other Side, The Boss Lady's Editorials (regular and 2005 Expanded Edition), Duality, Seeing Things Differently, Change/Rearrange, Death Comes in Threes, Moving Performances, Six Eleven, Life at Cafe Aloha, Creams, Rough Mixes, The Entrance Project, The Other Side (2006 Edition), Stop, Sing Your Life, The Beauty and the Destruction, c&d v16.7.5 (Writing to Honor & Cherish, editor edition), Blister & Burn (the Kuypers edition), S&M, c&d v17.0.5 Distinguished Writings editor edition, Living in Cloos, Silent Screams, Taking It All In, It All Comes Down, Rising to the Surface, Galapagos, Chapter 38 (v1, v2 & v3), *Finally, Literature for the Sooty and Blue (v1, v2 & part 1)*, a Wake-Up Call From Tradition, (recovery), Dark Matter: the Mind of Janet Kuypers, Evolution, (tweet), Get Your Bezz On, Janet & Jeon Together, po-em, Taking Poetry to the Streets, the Cane-Dixie Chi-tow Union, the Written Word, Do, Prepare Her for This, Uncorrect, Living in a Big World, Pulled the Trigger, Venture to the Unknown, Janet Kuypers: Enriched, Sho's an Open Book, "40", Sexism and Other Stories, the Stories of Women, Prominent Pen (Kuypers edition), Elemental, the 2012 Datebook, 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, Give What You Can, Down in the Dirt v084, Come Fly With Me, Clearing the Debris, Sectioned & Segmented, Six Six Six, Skelated Remains, Out of the Web, Don't Tread on Me, Lines of Intensity, Entering the Ice Age, When the World Settles, Into the Whirls, Along the Surface, Life... from Nothing, the Line to Power, Fear the Forsaken, Down in It, Falling Into Place, Wake Up and Smell the Flowers, Unknown, Looking Beyond, Forever Bound, See the World Burn, Exploding on the Scene, America the Lost, Moving the Earth, Catch Fire in the Treaties, Infamous in our Prime, Anais Nix: an Understanding of her Art, the Electronic Windmill, Changing Women, the Swan Road, the Significance of the Frontier, The Sweatsovetra Uponsoved, Harvest of Gems, the Little Monk, Death in Malaga, Monument Mori, in the Palace of Creation, R.E.P., Bob the Bumble Bee, Remnants and Shadows, I Saw This, the Dove, Thomas of Tea, Crishing Down Nineteenth, Blue Collar Ballet, napsun, in Your Heart the Apostrophe's Teardrops of God, the Adventures of the Key to Believing Bear, Anais Nix: an Understanding of her Art (second printing), *Deardard Kunder / Charis Newman*, 12 Times 12 Equals Gross, a Marble Nude Pauline Borches 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 Dancers Leaping from a Tome, the 4-D Window, Open Wounds, Anim Junkie, Interstice, Gunther, Cats, Scream Cloud Island, When the World was Black and White, a Petal Under Pavement, the Holy See of CEE, Sulphur & Swardast, Sate & Marrow, Blister & Burn, Kinse & Repeat, Survive & Thrive, (not so) Warm & Fuzzy, Torture & Triumph, Oh, the Elements, Side A/Side B, Balance, Close Theory, Writing to Honour & Cherish, Distinguished Writings, Breaking Silences, Unleashing the Mysteries, the Book of Sore, We The Poets, Life on the Edge, Revealing all your Dirty Little Secrets, Bourgeois Remnants, Cleared Remnants, Hope & Creation, Sealing the Curve, Layers of Creation, Dark Matter, Survival of the Fittest, Crawling Through the Dirt, Laying the Groundwork, Weathered, who, ink, in my blood, (bound) (4 editions), Enriched Poetry, cc&d Enriched Prose, Enriched with Dirt, An Open Book, Literary Town Hall (2 editions), Prominent Pen (2000 Words, the 2012 Literary Date Book, It Was All Preordained, Cultural Touchstone, the Mission (issue edition and chapbooks edition), Purpose, Falling, Cheap Thrills, After the Apocalypse 2013 date book, After the Apocalypse (poetry edition), After the Apocalypse (prose edition)

Compact Discs:

Mom's Favorite Voice the demo tapes, *Kuypers the Year!* (MPV inclusive), *Woods and Flowers* the beauty & the desolation, *The Second Acting* Something is Sweating, *The Second Acting* Live in Alaska, *Pattes & Kuypers* Live at Cafe Aloha, *Pointless Orchestra* Rough Mixes, *Kuypers* Seeing Things Differently, *50/50* Tick Tock, *Kuypers* Change Rearrange, *Order From Chaos* the Entropy Project, *Kuypers* Six One One, *Kuypers* Stop... *Kuypers* Masterful Performances mp3 CD, *Kuypers* Death Comes in Threes, *Kuypers* Changing Gears, *Kuypers* Dreams, *Kuypers* How Do I Get There?, *Kuypers* Contact & Control, *the DMU Art Connection* the DMU Art Connection, *Kuypers* Questions in a World Without Answers, *Kuypers* SH, *Kuypers* WZRD Radio (2 CD set), *Mom's Favorite Voice* and *The Second Acting* These Truths, *assorted artist* String Theory, Oh [London CD], *Life At The Cafe* (3 CD set), *the DMU Art Connection* Indes Fide, *the DMU Art Connection* Means Depressive or Something, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #1, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #2, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #3, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #4, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #5, *Chaotic Radio* the Chaotic Collection Collection #0-05 (5 CD set) etc. [London CD, 2 CD set], *Chaotic Elements* (2 CD set), *Class in Motion* (6 CD set), *SD/SD* Something to a Halt (EP), *PRK* 7 Ties for the Price of One (EP), *RAE, Jake and Maynard*: An American Parable, *Kuypers* the Eastern Top/Petal Under the Autumn/Powers Top Fancies (4 CD set), *and* the Evolution of Performance Art (13 CD set), *the DMU Art Connection* the Things 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 Games Show (5 CD set), *Kuypers* and the *Millennium of South Africa* Born Through Me (2 CD set), *Kuypers* "40", *Kuypers* Sexism and Other Stories, *Kuypers* the Stories of Women (amazon.com release), *Kuypers* "Dubno YeCs" (4 CD set), *Kuypers* "hmm" (4 CD set), *Kuypers* "Letting it All Out", *Kuypers* "What We Need to Live" (CD single), *Kuypers* "Made Any Difference" (CD single), *Kuypers*/Hardwick "Across the Pond" (3 CD set).