

# 6 second poems

Janet Kuypers series  
of haiku poems, short poems  
and shortened poems

performed for the release  
of her "Partial Nudity"  
book set interview in Chicago  
at WZRDRadio 9/27/14

scar'suon!e3!jond

# civil

a civil war is  
raging in me, and I want  
a revolution

# mirror

I look and see all  
that you've affected. The world,  
this house. The mirror.

# instead

we destroy value  
instead of fighting for it.  
It's just amazing.

# need

I need to record  
these things to remind myself  
that I am alive

# eight people outside

## 6 second edit

with public smoking illegal,  
a Chicago bar had  
8 people smoke outside,  
and no one inside.

# floor

Writhing on the floor,  
bruised, she cried, begged for an end.  
I had to kill her

# of his thirst

of my dead Scotsman,  
they spoke of his drinking, but  
never of his thirst.

# hold

hold my hand, so I  
feel hearts, cupids, sunshine  
all over again

## fought

a thousand wars are  
fought in your honor, swinging  
battle axes high

## strike

Though he was injured,  
he still held his rifle proudly.  
He would aim well, strike.

## console

canned condolences  
were all I heard when I lost  
the love of my life

## relegated

at death, life's rele-  
gated to the ranks of the  
inconsequential.

## extinct

when they go extinct  
do we study the mistakes  
or just study bones

## my new grocery list

Preparation H,  
Tampons,  
Depends Undergarments,  
and  
a bottle of Whiskey.

## couldn't

6 second edit

couldn't get my fingers wet,  
so in the shower  
i wore surgical gloves.  
and couldn't feel  
shampoo lathering.

# ruminating

“Performing Background Tasks”  
equals  
ruminating over everything  
that went wrong between us

# barbed

they talk of mercy  
but they still keep broken glass,  
barbed wire on roofs

# gone

when the love is gone  
I’ve searched for it, and wondered:  
where did the love go?

# out there

alone and lonely  
all the love was just out there  
I couldn’t reach it

# knife

he didn't want to  
pull the knife out, injuring  
him more so he sat

# pet

on the Hollywood  
streets, I saw signs for pet spas.  
And I laughed. pet spas.

# kindness

they almost killed me  
because I saved lives. That's what  
I get for kindness

# found

I have fought the world's  
storms, blizzards, droughts, hurricanes  
and I still found you

# pleading

“When they eat one of  
you, word get around,” the an-  
imal said, pleading.

# only

(for reading 20140927)

some eighties southern  
barber shops *still* would only  
cut hair for white men

# humans

there’s a tree for each  
species on earth. But humans?  
I’m sure we killed ours

# stagger

The crowds around him  
stagger, sway like weeds. And he  
thinks: let the weeds go.



## addiction

I look at the clock.  
It's time. I always need to  
take another pill.

## At the Camp

through wind, sleet or rain  
they say "work will set you free":  
their chant 'til you die

## suicide (heart) poem

the shards of glass are colder than the air  
so i'll take it

## sting

it's just a small sting.  
it's not physically painful.  
it just hurts                      your heart.

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