



India stories

poetry on sexism, life and death
from the other side of the world

Janet Kuypers feature chapbook
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s c a r s u o i t a c i l q n d

Building Houses out of Pallets

Janet Kuypers

5/12/12

I've heard that in poor places
in South Africa
They build houses out of extra pieces
of scrap metal.
But here in the Dominican Republic,
I saw them
building houses out of pallets.

I thought for a second about
artist paint pallets,
and of course, I came back to
these large wood pallets
for hauling mass product from point A
to point B,
and all I could think was:

Hmmm. Houses made out of
pallets. Hmmm.

on the back of a touring bike

Janet Kuypers

9/26/14

I'm not a biker bitch.
I know I've gone 155
on his ZX11...
I know I rode
(by choice, mind you)
for I don't know how many miles
at night in the pouring rain
on the back of his cycle,
and I've been told
that initiates me
into some unwritten club
as an official biker.

(don't ask me about the clutch,
or actually *driving* a motorcycle,
but apparently I'm an official biker.)

But one sunny summer day
riding on the back of his touring bike,
some pissy little car
cut *right* in front of us
knocking us into oncoming traffic
(yes, there were cars
driving straight towards us,
we almost crashed)
so they could cut off a motorcycle
to get to the left turn lane first.
Well, since they forced us into oncoming traffic,
we were forced into that left turn lane too,
so we stopped at the light
right behind them,
and the bike rider
swung his leg
(while I sat at the back)
and told me to wait there
as I watched him walk toward that car.

And I was thinking,
wait,
he left me
on a running motorcycle,
I don't know how
to make this thing move,
and what is he doing?

So I watched him
(wait, I have to first
let you know,
he's like six foot four,
he's a double black belt Marine,
he's an
imposing looking man)

So I watched him
walk to the driver's side
of the car that cut us off, then knock
repeatedly
with almost enough force
to shatter that window
before he started
yelling
at whoever was driving that car.
I couldn't hear if the driver
was yelling back;
I only heard
him screaming
that they could have killed us.
and they should watch for motorcycles.
And you know,
I can't really remember
the details of what he said,
I had a motorcycle helmet on,
it was just a little freaky to watch
before he walked back
before the light changed.

And I was still in stunned mode,
but when that light *did* change,
that car then tried to hit us again,
so I pushed with my hand
against the car
and he put his foot to the car
(like our limbs would block a car,
but cut us some slack,
it was instinct,
what were we supposed to do),
and the car started then chasing us.
Apparently after we took turns
through a random subdivision,
the driver apparently
got tired of the driving taunts
and decided enough was enough
and left us alone.

Not a half hour later,
there was a knock on my door.
I opened my front door
to find a cop
asking for the motorcycle driver
by his full name.

I asked him to wait.

I *told* that motorcycle driver
and all six foot four of him
came to the front door —

but when he did,
the cop asked him who he was,
he confirmed his name
and then he asked him
if it would be okay
if he sat on the stoop
(because being so tall,
he didn't want to look
imposing to the cop).

He did his best to rationally explain
what happened.

The cop then asked
if he pounded on the glass,
but he wanted the cop to understand
that the *driver* was the instigator.
But then the cop said
the driver of the Pontiac Sunfire
had said that the motorcycle driver yelled,
“Get out of the car you nigger cunt
so I can kick your ass!”

Which stunned my motorcycle driver,
so he responded, “Excuse me?!?
There was a woman driving the car?
I didn’t know that.”
And the cop said, wait a minute,
you were pounding on the car,

you had to see...
And he said yes, he knocked on the window,
but the driver never rolled down the window,
and he suggested to cop
look at those windows,
which were so heavily tinted
the he couldn’t see into the car.

The cop said he didn’t notice that.
Then he took some notes.

I think the cop realized
that this motorcycle driver
was *far* to aware of his surroundings
to get in trouble with the cops.

The cop then told him
that the woman wants to press charges.
The cop then asked him,
“What would *you* like to do?”
Then he responded,
“As far as I am concerned,
it’s over, nobody got hurt,
everything is settled.
But if she wants to press charges, fine.
I would like to press charges
of assault with a deadly weapon
and attempted murder.
Ask her if she wants to continue.”

(Because what she did was a felony,
he also suggested to check her car
for his boot print and my hand print
in self-defense, and he reminded the cop
to check the tinting on her windows.)

The cop then said
there are a lot of crazy people out there,
and suggested
that the driver
could have had a gun...
But then the cop left,
and we never heard from the cop again.

I don’t know
what the lesson is from this.
To not succumb to road rage,
to see motorcycles,
I don’t know.
But I have to admit, from sitting
on the back of a touring bike,
it was kind of cool to see
a man defend our collective safety
by fighting a car
with his bare hands.

unmarried women and dead bodies everywhere

Janet Kuypers
2/11/15

the Ganges River in India,
the most sacred river to Hindus
is still religiously renowned

but on one day not too long ago,
at one tributary of the Ganges river
they discovered twenty-eight bodies

the locals first spotted the corpses
when vultures surrounded those bodies
as they piled up along the shore

online news sources explain
that bodies may have been left there
when families couldn't afford a burial

and at those same online news sources,
lucky you, you can see videos of dogs
eating at the flesh of the dead

—

but I was there, I read those newspapers
as the Star of India came to me daily,
while locals discovered more bodies:

before they found one hundred and four
the local papers explained
that this 'tradition' of "jalpravah"

is a custom in some cultures —

when unmarried women die
their bodies are dumped in the river

—

unrecognizably decomposed,
more and more bodies
of unmarried women

kept floating to the surface
in just a few days,
in the sacred Ganges river

—

I kept looking for an explanation,
and all I could think was that
this river was supposed to be sacred

and I wondered if this is their effort
to give these women a family
in the afterlife, putting them in a river

they call sacred

because I know how they view women
in India, cover their skin, they don't talk back,
because even though women

are treated like nothing to men there,
they'd be less than nothing
if they're not married

Visakhapatnam

Janet Kuypers

1/19/15 (from the India haiku series)

destroyers, frigates
swarm Visakhapatnam's bay
patrolling beaches

poor

Janet Kuypers

1/19/15 (from the India haiku series)

employ poor — make them
hand-paint curbs, tie fronds to lights
so streets look nicer

unless

Janet Kuypers

1/19/15 (from the India haiku series)

feel warmth from the sun
touching legs, shoulders, your skin

unless you're woman

don't

Janet Kuypers

1/20/15 (from the India haiku series, with bonus word)

don't drink their water,
never show legs or shoulders.
or go out at night

alone

cover

Janet Kuypers

1/19/15 (from the India haiku series)

cover shoulders, legs
women are second class, so
cover your spirit

imprisoned / ignorance

Janet Kuypers

1/21/15 (from the India haiku series, with bonus word)

I am imprisoned
on earth's dirty side, due to
their ignorance

extend

Janet Kuypers

1/19/15 11/20/15 IST. from the India haiku series)

doctors found gene to
extend life; plan to use for
anti-aging cream

Quoting twitter with a found haiku

Janet Kuypers

started 3/9/15, finished 3/12/15
adapted from @PrezBillyJeff 3/7/15

What will save us from
isis? Water with fluoride,
vaccines, fewer guns?

choice

Janet Kuypers

1/19/15 11/20/15 IST. from the India haiku series)

our only choice is
to destroy ourselves. it's our
choice. and so we do

Us Creative Types

Janet Kuypers

5/17/12

I'm angry with you.

I know us creative types
are self-absorbed,

but only if you're so destitute
that even shelters
or food banks can't help
should you ever think about it.

I mean, I know
we're really all so selfish,
and selfishness is a virtue,
but I swear to god,
this is the wrong kind
of selfishness.

If you think this will
make you happy,
this lack of existence,
think of how much
pain you've caused
by this one selfish act.

Is that how you
want to be remembered?
I know us creative types
are so self-absorbed,
so wouldn't you rather
be remembered for your talents,
and not have your
cut-short creativity
be so overshadowed
by the pain you've caused?

###

Because screw you,
I know pain,
I've been where you've been,
I think I've been closer than you,
I think I've had more reason than you...
I don't know how long
I was on that edge, and
I struggle to this day
with the knowledge that
I should have just done it
and gotten it over with.

Trust me, I know.

But all us creative types
have these demons haunting us,
and it's supposed to be
our creativity
that gets us through it all.

So yeah, I'm angry with you.

Because you said
you're a creative type,
so you should have
been strong enough.

Test your brain and your soul
by testing your creativity more.
I mean, Kerouac may have
tested himself
by bathing in bathtubs of liquor,
people have tested themselves
with anything from drug overdosing
to auto-erotic asphyxiation.
And yeah, those creative
types were selfish,
but they aren't
as selfish as you.

And I'm angry,
because you took
the easy way out.

And I'm angry,
because you caused
so much pain
in this world
with this one selfish act.

And I'm angry,
because now,
what you've done,
the pain you've caused,
that's the only way
I am forced
to think of you now.

JY asks

Janet Kuypers

11/05/14 "two haiku" poem

philosophers ask,
"if all we are are chemi-
cals, why do we cry?"

he thinks after a
loved one dies, and he is filled
with questions and angst

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India stories

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

Books: *Hops Chest in the Attic, the Window, Close Cover Before Striking (Woman), Autumn Reason, Contents Under Pressure, the Average Guy's Guide (to Feminism), Changing Geors, the Key to Believing, Domestic Blisters, etc., Ouvre, Exare 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 Entropy Project, The Other Side (2006 Edition), Stop... Sing Your Life, The Beauty and the Destruction, cc&d v167.5 (Writing to Honour & Cherish, editor edition), Blisters & Burs (the Kuypers edition), S&M, cc&d v170.5 Distinguished Writings: editor edition, Living in Chaos, Silent Screams, Taking It All In, It All Comes Down, Rising to the Surface, Galapagos, Chapter 38 (v1, v2 & v3), **Finally, Literature for the Savvy and Elite (v1, v2 & part 1), a Wake-Up Call from Tradition, (recovery), Dark Matter: the Mind of Janet Kuypers, Evolution, (tweet), Get Your Buzz On, Jason & Joan Together, go-on, Taking Poetry to the Streets, the Gene-Dixie Chi-town Union, the Written Word, Dual, Prepare Her for This, Unconcern, Living in a Big World, Palled the Trigger, Venture to the Unknown, Janet Kuypers: Enriched, She's an Open Book, "40", Section and Other Stories, the Stories of Women, Prominent Pen (Kuypers edition), Enamored, the 2012 Databook, Prominent Tongue, Classic Elements, Festive, Stability Stability Snak Snak Snak, a Picture's Worth 1,000 words (color art book and 1&w art book), Life in Color, Post-Apocalyptic, Burn Through Me, Under the Sun (photo book), Partial Mudry, Revealed, 100 Halkus, Give me the News, Let me See you Stripped, Part of my Pain, Rape Sexism & Death, Say Nothing, I've written, when you Dream tonight, Solphar & Sawdust, Slate & Marrow, Blisters & Burs, Rise & Repeat, Survive & Thrive, (not so) Warm & Fuzzy, Torture & Triumph, Oh, the Elements, Side A/Side B, Balance, Chaos Theory, Writing to Honour & Cherish, Distinguished Writings, Breaking Silences, Unlocking the Mysteries, the Book of Scars, We The Poets, Life on the Edge, Revealing all your Dirty Little Secrets, Decepti 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, echo, 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 (2 editions), 100 Words, 1,000 Words, the 2012 Literary Date Book, It Was All Preordained, Cultural Touchstone, the Mission (issue edition and chapbook edition), Purpose, Falling, Cheap Thrills, After the Apocalypse 2013 date book, After the Apocalypse (poetry edition), After the Apocalypse (prose edition), Entanglement, Guilt by Association, don't Forget It, don't Listen, read, bare minimum, Poet as Soapthrob, Drawing Art is not Meant to be Touché, the Broken Path, a New Pen, Need to Know Basis (reduced edition and extended edition), the "need to know" 2015 literary date book, one Solitary Word, What Must be Done, Infamous in our Prime, Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art, the Electronic Window, Changing Women, the Swan Road, the Significance of the Frontier, The Sveltesvatures Unpunished, Harvest of Gems, the Little Book, Death in Midlife, Moments Near, In the Palace of Creation, R.L.P., Bob the Bumble Bee, Remnants and Shadows, I Saw This, the Drive, Themes at Tea, Crashing Down Nineteenth, Blue Collar Ballet, again, In Your Heart the Apostrophe's: Treasures of God, the Adventurers of the Key to Believing Bear, Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art (second printing), **Duckard Kluter / Charlo Rowman, 12 Times 12 Equals Gross, a Marble Nude Paulina Barchese 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 Spino, Poems and Stories from the Blue Cellar Book of the Dead, Cat People, Death of an Angel, Ghost, Science: A Curmudgeon's View, Ghost Dancers Leaping from a Tome, the 4-D Window, Open Wounds, Anime Junkie, Interscience, Gunther, Cats, Scream Cloud Island, When the World was Black and White, a Petal Under Pavement, The Holy See of CE, Book 15 - Thailand to Volcanoes, Lost in an Echo, I Was Charles Bronson's Secret Hostage, Erasable Bond, Royal Dane's Death Scene "His of Ours, Understood, Alaskan Shotgun, Champagne - Hot Water, How a Bullet Behaves, the Thing in the Lounges at WiggahWood (I Came in Aravatic), Postcards from Earth, the Five Stages of Muckdirt, Stay in Formation, Shadowing Other Footprints, the Girl Next Door and Other Poems, Major Arcana, Give What You Can, Down in the Dirt v084, Come Fly With Me, Clearing the Debris, Sectioned & Sequenced, Six Six Six, Shattered Remains, Out of the Web, Don't Tread on Me, Line of Intensity, Entering the Ice Age, When the World Settles, Into the White, Along the Surface, Life... from Nothing, the Line to Power, Four the Foreknot, 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 Last, Moving the Earth, Catch Fire in the Tree Tops, Wisdom in Broken Hands, Autumn Again, Up in Smoke, Symbols Manifest, No Return, Grounded, Perfectly Imperfect, Wrapping It Up, I Pull the Strings, a Link in the Chain, Shot out of a Cannon, am i really extinct, Home at Last, Inevitable Ink, a new era, Moles, Friction, Sea Drift, Spiraling, and Then he Moved, a Creative Journey, a Rural Story, Beyond the Gates, Treating Water, the Curve of Arctic Air*****

Compact Discs: *Men's Favorite Verse the Anna poems, Kuypers the Inad (MP3 inclusive), Woods and Flowers the beauty & the desolation, The Second Living Something is Something, The Second Living Live in Alaska, Petrus & Kuypers Live at Cafe Aloha, Pindaric Orchestra Rough Mixes, Kuypers Seeing Things Differently, SD/SD Tidd Tick, Kuypers Change Rearrange, Order From Chaos The Entropy Project, Kuypers Six One One, Kuypers Stop... Kuypers Masterful Performances ep3 CD, Kuypers Death Comes in Threes, Kuypers Changing Geors, Kuypers Dreams, Kuypers How Do I Get There?, Kuypers Content-Culture-Culture, the DMU Art Connection the DMU Art Connection, Kuypers Questions in a World Without Answers, Kuypers S&M, Kuypers WDRD Radio (2 CD set), Men's Favorite Verse and The Second Living These Truths, associated artist's Story Poetry, CD (audio CD), Life At The Cafe (3 CD set), the DMU Art Connection Indian Flux, the DMU Art Connection Music, Depressive or Something, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #1, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #2, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #3, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #4, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #5, Classic Radio the Classic Collection Collection #01-05 (5 CD set) etc (audio CD, 2 CD set), Classic Elements (2 CD set), Chaos in Motion (6 CD set), SD/SD Screaming to a Halt (EP), P&R Two for the Price of One (EP), Kiki, Jake and Haystack An American Portrait, Kuypers/No Beard/Yes/Paul Baker/The Indiana Poetries Trio Fusion (4 CD set), postcard the Evolution of Performance Art (13 CD set), Kuypers Live (14 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 Game Show (3 CD set), Kuypers and the Hillman of South Africa Burn Through Me (2 CD set), Kuypers "40", Kuypers Section and Other Stories, Kuypers the Stories of Women (amazon.com release), Kuypers "Dobro Vecher" (4 CD set), Kuypers "Summer" (4 CD set), Kuypers "Letting it Out", Kuypers "What We Need in Life" (CD single), Kuypers "Made key Differences" (CD single), Kuypers/Arbuckle "Across the Post" (3 CD set).*