

BUMMER



POEMS
of Pain
by Chris
Butler

2015

Down in
the Dirt
Chapbook

Scars
Publications

POEMS OF PAIN

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Antisocial

My face
hides from sight
and the light
of everyday.

This insipid skin
pales against
the illumination
of some serene
screensaver scenery,

stricken with
melatonin depletion
from the artificial sun
slowly seeping in.

I choke on the fog of
intoxicating smoke
and carbon dioxide,

locked in an
existence
built around my
consciousness,

with no exit,

out of touch,

disconnected.

Teenage Angst

You're never too old
for teenage angst.

Twentysomethings
throw temper tantrums
over nothing,

and thirty is
when it's time to
settle down.

Forty is the new thirty
but fifty is still
half of a century,

and too late for
midlife crises.

But when you have to
breathe with machines
and eat through tubes,

you will still want
to scream.

The Motions

Going through the motions like bathing in the ocean's waves, allow the emotional tides of life to wash you away then ashore with the celestial cycles. Every journey is traveled by autopilot coasting on cruise control. In your daily tasks, perform strictly instinctual, habitual rituals, adorned in your gray uniform, marching around as a preprogrammed mechanical man. Picture yourself in a serene place and remain there. Smile politely at everyone you meet, and reactively respond to their inquiries that everything is fine, in order that they won't request any further replies. Keep your eyes focused only on the earth beneath your feet. Prepare prepackaged, processed, preservative meals. And by the end of each day, make sure to mail it in, just so no one notices that you even exist.

Imagine Nation

The great escape,
to where no one runs wild
and the mind cannot
envision what the eyes
cannot see,

is sprung from serving a life sentence
in detention,
when all of my friends are pretend
and I ally myself with animated animals
speaking with squeaky voice boxes
fluently in my native language,
to keep me awake and daydreaming.

We role play misadventures underneath a smiley faced sun with
watchful, starry eyes shaded by black Ray-Bans,
until the day passes away when sun showers and Technicolor
rainbows morph into afternoon moons and twinkling twilight,
when I must return to the real world.

But I can't make myself believe in make believe.

Wonderland

Have you ever
tripped over
your own soul?

Have you ever
fallen down
the rabbit hole?

Have you ever
swallowed
the blue pill?
Have you ever
swallowed
the red pill?
Have you ever
swallowed
them both
and puked up
a purple puddle?

Have you ever
drank a drink
that made you smaller?
Have you ever
ate some cake
that made you larger?

Have you ever
smoked
circles around
a caterpillar?

Have you ever
seen a celestial
Cheshire cat?

Have you ever
worn a
madman's hat?

Have you ever
beaten the
queen of hearts
to death
with two clubs?

Have you ever
gone off with
your own head?

Have you ever
woken up
to realize that
life was the dream?

Zombie

The living dead
walk amongst us,

brain dead consumers
marching purposelessly
up and down the endless
aisles of high priced
merchandise on shelves
just out of reach,

howling hopeless moans
for a hunger that will
never be satisfied.

Mannequin

I am the fake plastic man,
the stone statue standing in vogue poses,
staring down the envious,
standing around indifferent.
I am decorated in the highest fashion dressings,
and some days I'm left naked
with a figure of zero percent body fat and six pack abs
carved out of plastic granite.
I watch the zombie shoppers
shamble through the aisles,
consuming the flesh of polyester fibers.
They all want to look like me
because I am the fake plastic man.

Girls are Cats and Guys are Dogs

Girls are pets.
Guys are wild.

Girls are pussies.
Guys are bastards.

Girls are named after Egyptian queens and cuddly things.
Guys are called whatever four letter word is hollered in anger.

Girls live in an alley.
Guys reside in the doghouse.

Girls lick themselves clean.
Guys gnaw on their crotch.

Girls purr.
Guys pant.

Girls are fixed from littering kittens.
Guys are neutered to serve their owners.

Girls play with their prey.
Guys chase furry tail.

Girls squat in a box and bury their dirty secrets in the sand.
Guys piss on the perfect tree.

Girls escape atop the perfect tree.
Guys dig up dirty secrets.

Girls hiss.
Guys bark.

Girls are diseased by rabies.
Guys acquire cat scratch fever.

Girls have nine lives.
Guys die seven years at a time.

Girls become the victims of neighborhood sadists.
Guys get hit by a truck.

Insert Her Name Here

Woman
brings us life,
but is the
death of men.

Woman
causes young love
to grow old.

Woman
is the savior
of knights
in shining armor.

Woman
is the damsel in
distress, damned to
the railroad tracks.

Woman
is the muse
not easily amused.

Woman
is the apollonian
apple dangling from
the temptress's branch.

Woman
is the devilish
diva born to adorn
horny horns.

Woman
is the angel
not swathed in
virgin white.

Woman
is the goddess
who makes gods
feel inadequate.

Woman
is the soul sucking
succubus causing
incubuses to succumb.

Woman
is the siren
driving sailors to
suicide with her songs.

Woman
is the heartless
harlot tearing out
still beating hearts.

Woman
is who I love
to hate me.

VAMPIRES SUCK

I don't care
if she makes me
cum or bleed,
just as long as she
sucks all of
the life out
of me

with a hickey.

Lost and Found

Every time my heart breaks, a few pieces go missing:

Between the couch cushions, under the Oriental rug, cuddling
a dust bunny in the vacuum's belly, stuck to my shoe's soul,
hiding inside my other pocket, locked in the vegetable crisper,
buried beneath the egg shells and coffee grounds in the kitchen
trash can and somewhere around the lost and found.

Every time my heart breaks, I can't find them all.

Sunday Mourning

Sundays don't always shine
and I can't always find
the bright side
to the horizon line's
sunrise.

But like a moth to a flame,
I always fly too close to
supernovas.

The Best Years of My Life

I lost
the best years
of my life,
a time
of my
supposed
prime to

fear,
tears,
depression,
regression,
anxiety,
calamity,
loathing,
hoping,
sadness,
madness,

but I now
want those
years back,
yet of whom
am I to ask?

Forget it,
I'd probably
just waste them
all over again.

PAPER CUTS

My generation will never read this poem
unless it's posted on the antisocial networks.

They will only see it if it's live streaming video
and an exclamation point is expressed as a kick to the testis.

They will only hear of it from gossiping tweedy birds
tweeting.

My peers don't read words. They text them. Without the
vowels.

They don't comprehend that their opposable thumbs
are devolving them.

They don't even consider how many of their sons' and
daughters' brain cells will radiate from microwaves and how
their cellular compositions will deconstruct as their cellular
devices cuddle up with their genitals.

They are too busy bullying the geeks, nerds, jocks, slobs,
spazzes, stoners, burnouts, junkies, punks, vampires, goths,
warlocks, weirdoes, creeps to commit cyber suicide.

They will never inspire creation by starting destructive fires
because Kindles don't make good kindling.

They are frightened by enlightenment like scuttling
cockroaches.

They will never know the sensational pain of black ink
seeping into broken skin.

Their deaths will result from a thousand little paper cuts.

But I don't care what they may say. They won't read this anyway.

Untitled Poem

A poem without any name
wouldn't read as poetic.

A poem without any title
is unidentifiable
to the feeble minded,
by crippling their
metaphysical selves.

A poem without any header
beheads the scholars
from their crown on downward.

A poem is a poem
but its title isn't untitled.

Life's sentence

Which punctuation
will mark
the end
of our
lives' sentence?

A period.
An exclamation point!
A question mark?

Until then,
we'll settle for
an endless
ellipsis...

*The poems featured in **BUMMER**
have been previously published
by the following publications:*

The Blind Vigil Revue

Boyslut

The Camel Saloon

Dead Snakes

Horror Sleaze Trash

Nostrovia! Poetry

ppigpenn

Poiesis

Pyrokinecton

The Weekenders Magazine

Zygote in my Coffee

BUMMER

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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 Doors, the Key to Believing, Domestic Blisters, etc., Owevs, Exra 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, c&d v167.5 (Writing to Honour & Cherish, editor edition), Blister & Burn (the Kuypers edition), S&M, c&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), **Family, Literature for the Twenty and Ethic (v1, v2 & part 1),** a Wake-Up Call From Tradition, (recovery), Dark Matter: the Mind of Janet Kuypers, Evolution, (twice), Get Your Buns On, Janet & Joan Together, pe-on, Taking Poetry to the Streets, the Cape-Dixie City-Town Union, the Written Word, Dead, Prepare Her for This, Uncorrect, Living in a Big World, Palled the Trigger, Ventures to the Unknown, Janet Kuypers Enriched, She's an Open Book, "40", Seizure and Other Stories, the Stories of Women, Prominent Pen (Kuypers edition), Elemental, the 2012 Databook, Prominent Teenage, Chaotic Elements, Fiction, Stability Stability Snk Snk Snk, a Picture's Worth 1,000 words (color art book and ink art book), Life in Color, Post-Apocalyptic, Burn Through Me, Under the Sea (photo book), Partial Healed, Revealed, 100 Hologs, Give us the News, Let us See you Stopped, Part of my Pain, Rape Sexism Life & Death, Say Nothing, Twitnered, when you Dream tonight, the Periodic Table of Poetry, a year long Journey, Don Vayagel, Sulpher & Sawdust, Slate & Marrow, Blister & Burn, 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 Silence, Unlocking the Mysteries, the Book of Scars, We The Poets, Life on the Edge, Revealing all your Dirty Little Secrets, Decapitated Remains, Charred Remains, Horns & 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, c&d Enriched Prose, Enriched with Dirt, An Open Book, Literary Towns 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 chapbooks 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 Sociopath, Drawing, Art is not Meant to be Touched, the Beaten Path, a New Pen, Need to Know Basis (redacted edition and extended edition), the "need to know" 2015 literary date book, one Solitary Word, What Must be Done, Adrift, Salvation, Intimations in our Primes, Anis Nic, an Understanding of her Art, the Electronic Windmill, Changing Windows, the Swan Road, the Significance of the Frontier, The Svetostvornost Unplanned, Harvest of Gems, the Little Book, Death in Milling, Moments More, In the Palace of Creation, R.I.P., Bad the Bumble Bee, Remnants and Skeltons, I Saw This, the Drive, Thomas at Tom, Crossing Down Hometown, Blue Collar Bullet, responses to Your Heart the Apostrophe's Imprints of God, the Adventures of the Key to Believing, Burn, Jane, Her an Understanding of her Art (second printing), **Beckard Under / Charlie Newman**, 12 Times 12 Equids Grass, a Marble Nude Poeline Borchessa with a Marble Apple in her Marble Hand, Challenge of Night and Day and Chicago Poems, Lighten Up, Not Far from Here, Waterless, You Have Finally Won, Avenue C, Suburban Rhythms, Down Syndrome, the Dark Side of Love, the pH is a man's best friend, Argol's Syllable is Good Boss of Devil's Spin, Poems and Stories from the Blue Collar Book of the Dead, Cat People, Death of an Angel, Ghost, Science: A Carmageddon, View, Ghost Dancers Leaping from a Tome, the 4-D Window, Open Wounds, Anime Junkie, Interstice, Gunther, Cats, Scream Cloud Island, When the World was Black and White, a Petal Under Pavement, The Holy Sea of CEE, Book 1.5 * Thailand to Volcanoes, Last in an Echo, I Was Charles Branson's Secret Hostage, Erasable Bond, Royal Demo's Death Scene *Is of These, Understood, Akaschic Shotgun, Champagne - Hot Water, How a Bullet Behaves, the Thing in the Lounge at WagonWheel (I Came in Avarice), Postcards from Exile, the Five Stages of Molech, Stay in Formation, Sloughing Other Footprints, the Girl Next Door and Other Poems, Major Arcana, Sin Poetic Nalla est Gloria, Short Tales, Beyond Strangers, Re-Vivifying Anis, The Tribes Joshua Draw Out of the Land, Butchery of the Immortal, Give What You Can, Come Fly with Me, Out of the Web, Don't Tread on Me, Entering the Ice Age, the Line to Power, Fear the Forsaken, Falling into Place, Unknown, Forever Bound, Exploiting on the Scene, Moving the Earth, Autumn Again, Up in Smoke, No Return, Wrapping It Up, Link in its Chain, Shot out of a Cannon, Inseparable, a new era, Adults, Free Drift, and Then to Move, Approaching Front, Beyond the Gates, the Curve of Arctic Air, Men, a Mad Escap, the New Deal, the Captive and the Dead, Down in the Dirt v0&B, Clearing the Debris, Skeletal Remains, When the World Stalls, Along the Surface, into the White, Life... from Nothing, Down in It, Wake Up and Smell the Flowers, Looking Beyond, See the World Burn, America the Lost, Catch Fire in the Treeps, Wisdom in Broken Hands, Symbols Manifest, Grounded, Perfectly Imperfect, I Pull the Strings, am I really excited, Home at Last, Spiralling, a Rural Story, Treading Water, Black & Bad Influence, Path of Least Resistance, hello goodybye goodybye hello

Compact Discs: Mini's Favorite Things the Home tapes, Kuypers the Ined (MP3 inclusive), Wards and Flowers the beauty & the destruction, The Second Airing Something is Smelling, The Second Airing Live in Alaska, Pettes & Kuypers Live at Cafe Aloha, Painless Orchestra Bough Hairs, Kuypers Seeing Things Differently, SD/SD Tick Tack, Kuypers Change Rearrange, Order From Chaos The Survival Project, Kuypers Six, One One, Kuypers Six, Kuypers Masterful Performances #2 CD, Kuypers Death Comes in Threes, Kuypers Changing Gears, Kuypers Dreams, Kuypers How Do I Get There?, Kuypers Control-Collaps-Curtain, the DMU Art Connection the DMU Art Connection, Kuypers Questions in a World Without Answers, Kuypers 5/8, Kuypers NE20 Radio (2 CD set), Mini's Favorite Home and the Second Airing Three Tracks, recorded artist Strix Theory, Oh (audio CD), He In The C&D CD set, the DMU Art Connection Indian Flux, the DMU Art Connection Music Depression or Something, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Radio Work #1, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Radio Work #2, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Radio Work #3, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Radio Work #4, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Radio Work #5, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Radio Collection Collection #01-05 (3 CD set) etc. (audio CD, 2 CD set), Chaotic Elements (2 CD set), Chase in Motion (5 CD set), SD/SD Screaming in a Hall (EP), P&B / Two for the Price of One (EP), A&A, Jaka and Haystack An American Portrait, Kuypers the Bestest You/Paul Baker/An Indiana Poetess Trio Fusion (4 CD set), and/or 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 Saying a Psychiatric (3 CD set), Kuypers St. Paul's (3 CD set), Kuypers the 2009 Poetry Game Show (3 CD set), Kuypers and the H&Mans of South Africa Burn Through Me (2 CD set), Kuypers "40", Kuypers Seizure and Other Stories, Kuypers the Stories of Women (amazon.com release), Kuypers "Dobro Vecu" (4 CD set) Kuypers "Summer" (4 CD set), Kuypers "Letting It All Out", Kuypers "What We Need in Life" (CD single), Kuypers "Made my Difference" (CD single), Kuypers/Rebeck "Across the Pond" (3 CD set).