



Drop the Bomb

**Janet Kuypers
chosen poems
to read 4/30/97
at Austin's
Poetry bomb**

control

Janet Kuypers
4/19/17

government control
will be worse than spouse abuse
or a child's torture

earth

Janet Kuypers

2/12/17

craters, mountains, plains...
rattlers, bison, deer and elk —
experience earth

enjoy

Janet Kuypers
3/9/17

insanity, this side —
just let nature take it's course
and enjoy the ride

unbounded

Janet Kuypers

3/9/17

my unbounded love
makes me fight for you, against
impossible odds

Just Thinking About It

Janet Kuypers

3/24/17

It makes me dizzy, dizzy, dizzy in my head*
to just think about it —
the Earth is spinning
on it's circular axis
as it's circling around our Sun.
And our entire Solar System,
it's catching a ride
at the end of one of the arms
of our spiral Milky Way Galaxy,
riding on the edge
of another massive circle.
My head is swimming
when I think of this spinning,
because even if
I think I'm sitting still,
I think of how
I'm hurtling through the cosmos
in one cosmic circle after another,
and it makes me dizzy, dizzy, dizzy in my head.

Kick Someone Out

Janet Kuypers

4/20/17

We saw the man walk inside.
We didn't know why he was here.
She was divorcing him.
She had a restraining order on him.

I know, I know, she wasn't there.
But still, he had no place here.
So we confronted him inside,
before he got too comfortable.

“I hate to do this, but
we think it's best if you go.”

I suppose at times it can be tough
being a poetry open mic host,
because the foundation of our space
was that we welcomed anyone.

So it's tough when you have to
take a stand and kick someone out
to protect one of your own —
without the enemy ever saying a word.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls

Janet Kuypers

4/20/17

Running a poetry open mic for years,
I started every open mic by saying
“Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls —”
because everyone was welcome at the café.

Even after my Chicago open mic
moved to a bar with a stage
and anyone under 21 wasn't allowed,
I still started every open mic with

“Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls —”
because I believe to this day
that sharing your poetry, sharing your art
can bring out the kid in all of us.

Creativity's on our side,
so it takes us to a mindset
that although we may be small,
we can still take on the world.

exhaling toxic fumes

Janet Kuypers

1/13/16

so he and his friends
bring me to some party
in some stranger's house

and one of his friends
says to me, "I'm buying
a balloon here. Wanna hit?"

and I'm guessing it's
a whip-its balloon, but
I'm not even sure

if it's laughing gas or what,
but wait, isn't nitrous oxide
the teen party gas of choice?

But I really wasn't sure,
so I thought I'd be safe
and say I'll do it

if my friend does it
(and I really thought my
friend wouldn't do it).

So his friend turns to him
and asks, and he says,
sure.

Oh. So that backfired...
and I never got the chance
to ask what on earth

it was I was inhaling
before his friend came back,
inflated balloon in hand.

They told us to to
on the couch. So we did.
“Just take a hit,

lean back and close
your eyes,” he said.
So my friend went first,

handed me the balloon,
and like a good student
I did as I was told.

And it seemed that
almost suddenly
the party music slowed,

even the conversations
that echoed around me.
And that’s when he hit me —

wait a minute,
it’s not like that,
he was next to me

and he just tapped my leg
with the back of his hand. So I
did the same thing back.

Then he brushed his hand
against me leg again.
So again, I reciprocated.

And my eyes were closed

and he just kept doing this,
just kept tapping my leg.

So it had to happen
like twelve times,
and then it occurred to me

that the music stopped.
So I opened my eyes
to look over at him,

and he was just staring
at me with saucers for eyes.
After a moment I asked,

“You weren’t hitting me,
were you?” And he said
no.

So I just looked around
realizing I may be better off
grounded in reality instead.

Jumping from the Mausoleum

Janet Kuypers

3/10/16

When I was young
I sang at our church,
and as a female teen
I was a little peeved
that I could never
become a priest.

But as a teenager
with nothing to do,
one night
me and a few friends
went to the local cemetery
once it got dark, brought along
a couple of white sheets.

Now, this was
a small cemetery
in a small town,
it didn't have
high fences or gates.

So, we just walked
into the graveyard at night,
and we waited
by the mausoleum
until we saw a car
coming down the long road
from a distance.

That's when
I'd get on the roof,
throw a sheet over my body,
and when the car
would get closer,
just as it was making
a turn near the cemetery,
that's when I'd jump
to the ground
in the darkness.

My arms were out;
I was covered
with a white sheet.

And we'd laugh,
wondering if they thought
they'd seen a ghost.

I mean,
this is what
we'd do for fun,
teenagers with nothing to do
in the middle of nowhere.

But my dad
heard what happened,
and he asked me
the next morning
if I knew anything
about what happened
at the cemetery the night before.
I don't even remember
what I answered,
but as far as I know,
we weren't doing
anything illegal,
no one was hurt...

And it's still kind of funny
to imagine
how those drivers reacted,
wondering what they saw
when they were driving
down a lonely road
by a cemetery;

did the think
they saw a spirit.

Ah well,
the church didn't want
a female priest.
I suppose
it's for the best
that the church
wasn't suited for me.
I had more fun
making people
look toward the dead
and question what they see.

just to be on the safe side

Janet Kuypers

1/15/16

So we'd take turns.

One of us would stay
fifty feet away
with a cigarette in their mouth

and the other guy
(half the time that was I)
would shoot the ash off the cigarette.

You think this is dangerous.
But we could shoot that distance
within about three inches.

So, oh,
we always made sure
the cigarette was new.

You know,
just to be
on the safe side.

nobody finds me

Janet Kuypers

10/29/16

I wonder why nobody
finds me as fascinating
as i know i am

Because
i'm positive
i'm the only person
who envisions strangers
coming up to me and asking,
“aren't you...”?

It's tough to be
as awesome as me,
so i mean, i know i'm the only one

bored the night before 9/11

Janet Kuypers

9/11/15

bored last night, I flipped
between the tv shows “9/10: The Final Hours - Remembering 9/11”
and “100 orgasms a day”

energy

Janet Kuypers
Haiku 3/25/14

tension burns my skin
dark energy destroys us,
rips us like a bomb

errors

Janet Kuypers

Waku 3/25/14

I miss the needle
magnifying the scratches,
playing what's not clean

rescue

Janet Kuypers
2/8/14

save me from burning
buildings, or I will have to
rescue me again

this is only a test

Janet Kuypers

3/25/14

during the cold war,
the states wanted to test nukes
by bombing the moon

you

Janet Kuypers
Haiku 3/25/14

face scarred like war paint
I stick you into my eyes
before I cut you

Only Searching

Janet Kuypers

2/11/13

had no job
traveled around the country in my old car

and someone crashed into me
almost killed me right then and there

docs put a tube down my throat
forcing me to breathe for days

they attached an electronic gizmo to my head
to monitor my brain

fed me by shoving a tube through my skin
directly to my stomach

had to re-learn
how to walk, talk, eat

after I finally got free
I reached out to anyone

I almost lost everything
I was only searching for love

Ugly babies need the most love

Janet Kuypers
3/1/13

“Ugly babies need the most love,”
I heard the woman say.
It’s funny how easily she said
how her affection was so dependent
on looks.

Bimbo

Janet Kuypers

9/27/12

At work,
I was placed
behind a table
of loaves
of Bimbo
brand bread

So at work
I competed
with
the
Bimbo
bread
For attention

Good Escape

Janet Kuypers

(01/26/12)

I sit around here
waiting for you

that's all I do, you know
wait for you

when you turn me on
all I want

is to make you happy
but you need to take control

you need to let me know
what you want from me

what do you want
to see in me

do I have something
somewhere inside of me

to clear you mind
of your troubles

I know you must have
a lot on your mind

and I hope
I'm a good escape for you

I'll be here waiting
whenever you need me

whenever you want
a chance to escape again

I'll be here for you

(this poem is about a television)

Goth Girl Photographer

Janet Kuypers

5/5/12

in high school, mom wouldn't let
this goth girl photographer
wear black to school.
now this goth girl photographer
works for a portrait studio
with a dress code to wear only
black.
and the goth girl photographer
smiles.

Know You Only Got Me

Janet Kuypers

1/24/12

you know you got me
because it seemed obvious
that you really needed
someone to hold on to.

and I loved how you held me,
how you were so infatuated with me,
how you curled up with me,
how you caressed me.

I liked that, you know.

I have feelings too,
and it was nice to give you
something to lean on
when you felt alone.

but I've noticed that
as more time has passed
you've spent less time with me,
and I think I know why.

I think you've realized now
that you know you only got me
because I would only be a distraction
so you wouldn't think about

being alone.

(this poem is about a teddy bear)

Koala Porn

Janet Kuypers

2/15/12

koala bears are endangered.

so I heard the Chinese government
approved giving koala bears
Viagra.

I heard they're also
showing the koala bears porn.

So... they had koala bear porn?

Occupy

Janet Kuypers

8/25/12

I'm not occupying Wall Street.
I just want to occupy your mind.

On a Downtown Chicago Light Pole

Janet Kuypers
4/05/11

Saw a sticker
on a downtown Chicago light pole
that said,
“Most Capitalism is nothing more
than human & animal slavery”

someone wrote
this response on it:
“You’re a broke douche.”

On This Ride

Janet Kuypers

10/21/11

we're on this ride together
tied together
for better, for worse
'til death us do part

we've left for our fairytale honeymoon
and we're the two tin cans
tied together
for better, for worse
being dragged along for the ride

Marine Rifle Poem

Janet Kuypers

07/19/10

this is my poem
there are many like it
but this one is mine
without me, this poem is useless
without this poem, I am useless

thank you

no thank you

Janet Kuypers

6/13/10

we have too many
enemies in this world
to let our demons
drive us mad

he makes me think about these things

Janet Kuypers

2/16/09

I looked in my kitchen and saw olive oil.
now... think about it
olive oil from olives, right.
so let's break it down:
peanut oil: from peanuts.
almond oil: almonds.
corn oil, canola oil, safflower oil,
grape seed oil, flaxseed oil.
vegetable oil: from vegetables.
essential oils are concentrated oils.
i get it.

but what's in baby oil?

(and you could hold me)

Janet Kuypers

2/15/08

for the first time in my life
there is someone there for me
with open arms
and for once
i could curl up
like a little child
in the fetal position
and you could hold me

From Words to Wars

Janet Kuypers

5/09/08

words can strike like missiles
words can be dropped like bombs

and looking back over the years
at our relationship together
I've learned
stories can start wars

Echo in my Mind

Janet Kuypers

4/20/17

The thoughts of these women,
the visions of these women,
the legacies of these women,
they echo in my mind.

I think of the woman
who in her youth
led armies to battle
and saved her country.
And for this she was
burned at the stake
because she was a woman,
and she had beliefs.

I think of the woman
who wore a black dress
at the bride
to her wedding —
and no, it's not
because she's goth like me,
but because she had
work to do,
and she didn't want
to get her white
wedding dress dirty.
And yeah, she had
work to do —
she was discovering things

scientists take for granted now,
She was discovering things
no man had yet
to wrap his head around.

I think of the woman
who lived in a time
where she wasn't allowed
a higher education,
so she studied for free,
and she worked for free,
made amazing scientific discoveries
until she escaped Germany
days before Adolf Hitler
would have put her
in a concentration camp.

She carried a friend's
diamond ring
while trying to escape,
in case she needed to
bribe someone
to allow her to pass.

And her drive, her work,
gave the world Nobel-prize
winning collaborations —
despite the efforts
of the Third Reich,
and despite a patriarchy,
all her life,
that thought,

she's just a woman.
She doesn't need to learn.

I think of the woman
who was in the first wave
of women allowed to have
higher education,
but still, she left
her communist home,
searching for freedom.
She started a life
on the other side of the earth,
because after what she learned,
she knew that
understanding philosophy
could really set her free.

I think of the woman
born not far from my home.
She studied music,
but wanted to share her story
of life as a woman
with the rest of the world.

And through her journeys
she stayed with a tribe
when prisoners,
armed with lawn mower blades,
broke out of their jail cell
while all she do was wonder,
wait, and listen
out into the jungle.

During her travels
she took mail planes
until she was dropped off
as far as she could
before completing
her solitary journey
to the North Pole.

As an Artist in Residence
for NASA,
she learned how men,
during the cold war,
thought of
setting off nuclear bombs
on the dark side of the moon.

Of course,
only a man
would think of doing that.

Once she was in a protest
about the economic
exploitation of women
and the treatment
of women as animals,
giving flyers of images
of chicks, bunnies,
foxes and pussy cats.
And she's even said that
"for every dollar
a man makes,
a woman makes 63¢.
Now, 50 years ago
that was 62¢ —
so, with that kind of luck
it will be the year
3,888 before we make
a buck."

And I think about
what these women say,
and I think about
what these women mean,
and like they say,
“I could just go on
and on and on...
But tonight —
I’ve got a headache.”

Drop the Bomb

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4/30/17

