

Behind
the Mask

Janet
Kuyppers
poetry

poetry
performed live
3/23/22 at WNP /
Wednesday Night Poetry
in Hot springs, AR

Vaccinated from What Happens in Wuhan

how do you think
lethal infectious diseases
are spread anyway

seminal fluids,
blood transfusions, or... not
washing your hands

did you think
you were safe vacationing
on a cruise ship

silly you, for you
forgot that we're now in that
global economy

and what happens
in Wuhan doesn't necessarily
stay in Wuhan

—

after thousands
recently died from a recently
discovered virus

it's discovered
this virus escaped from a bio
research lab

in China — not
Russia, not the middle East,
but a place where

they now say that
the Great Wall is only for show.
But is it really.

For the only
known bio lab in China, in Wuhan
recently re-issued

a statement on
cleanliness for the country,
to avoid disease —

released just after
this most-recent mass epidemic
was fully discovered

—

and you'd think a lab
would know how to be clean,
but that doesn't mean

that their well-paid
researchers wouldn't illegally
make an extra buck

(or would that be
making many, many extra Yuan)
that doesn't mean

these researchers
wouldn't sell these laboratory
animals, still alive,

for extra cash
because one Beijing researcher
said they once sold

live monkeys and...
rats for the equivalent of over
a million U.S. dollars

and yes, those
precious disease-ridden animals
made their way into

people's stomachs, and
maybe eventually to people working
on your cruise ships

and you thought
you were safe, silly you — you
should know better

—

you thought that
if you didn't swallow three gallons
of someone's saliva

you'd remain safe
from contracting those infectious
diseases, you've been

vaccinated, you even
go so far as to wash your hands
how noble of you

and you thought
that was enough — but as I said
this global economy

means it's almost like
we're all sharing one giant bed
together — we just

didn't realize
how messy that bed could really be
how messy indeed

Masquerade

You asked me to the masquerade
and I willingly complied
but I'm tired of wearing this dress
for the feathers in my costume
won't stop licking my face
and you cannot see the tears
falling behind my mask -

When you see the price they pay
I'm sure you'll come and join
the masquerade, you say
but the price is too high
for I don't want to wear a mask
with you, and I would only hope
that I don't have to.

Uniqueness Finds Love

Pacing inside my walls, I was trapped in this cage after hearing the news of one lonesome whale roaming the Pacific with a 52 Hertz mating call—higher than what any other whale could hear.

Discovered by Naval researchers, this one whale pulled on the heartstrings of many generations, because we all all to painfully know that loneliness and that desperation— can anyone hear our pleas.

Pandemics force us into isolation, which further restricts any chance for connection, days become years as we are forced into this separation, and we suddenly now connect to this one lonesome whale.

So in our new isolation, we sit in our boxes, type questions to our Internet corporate Big Brother—and realize we weren't alone in loss, as newspapers share, musicians croon, and researchers... search,

to no avail: until they found audio records of that one singular sound— in two places. There was another. Without finding the whale, they instead found hope—that no matter who you are, no one is truly alone.

Every Heartbeat

my past and my future
have been shattered,
in fractional fragments of moonlight
where my burnt offerings
are my only remains

you do not realize
what I've given you,
and you do not know
the thousands of lives
we have lived, intertwined

throughout existence,
I have inhaled you,
breathing you in deeply

from your purity to your toxicity
into this collective conscience
making my brain shake
with every heartbeat
until I realize
that I am everything
from Athena, to Medusa

for too many years
I have fought this battle
waited for you
to open Pandora's box

I have waited for you
to finally understand

to take my hand,
and join me

Obfuscate the Truth

*written 7/10, the day in 1925 marking the beginning of the Scopes Trial
in Dayton, Tennessee of the so-called "Monkey Trial" of John T. Scopes,
the teacher accused of teaching evolution in violation of the Butler Act*

The most ludicrous thing
is when people try to legislate untruths
and expect everyone to just go along with them.

That man would obfuscate
race, gender, science and the truth —
"we hold these truths to be self-evident", you all

boldly proclaim, but, do you?
What is your definition of *truth*, and at
what lengths will you go to, to *obfuscate* the truth?

—

The ACLU wanted to finance
a test case against the constitutionality
of the Butler Act, which *became* the Scopes Monkey Trial.

In an attempt to gain crucial
limelight to the injustices of deliberately
not teaching science to children, a team of businessmen

approached the substitute
teacher John Thomas Scopes, stating
that the Butler Act prohibited teaching human evolution,

but the state required all
teachers to use the assigned textbook
Hunter's Civic Biology, which *contained* that evolution.

Scopes wasn't sure he *taught*
evolution, but chose to be their defendant.
The defense fought gallantly, but their efforts didn't matter

when the *cards* against reason
were so stacked in this *house* against them...
They lost this trial, and Scopes had to pay a \$100 fine...

Scopes was even harassed
afterwards for years because of this,
while continuing schooling at the University of Chicago.

But the seed was planted,
and it would only take time before
ignorance would be overturned in the eyes of the law.

—

This trial set Modernists
against Fundamentalists, who said
the word of God as revealed in the Bible took priority

over all human knowledge.
This is where the debate began; and
this is where this tenuous debate will fight and flourish.

Do you believe in truth
through evidence, or do you believe
in a centuries-old book that the world accepts on faith.

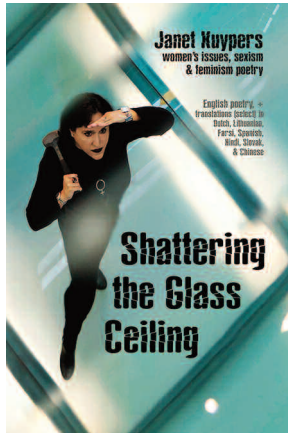
And are our courts here
defending blind faith, or do they defend
people's right to make their own choices for themselves.

Your choices in politics
are so directly interlinked with religion,
and with science, and with knowledge. So, choose wisely.

Kill Us for Our Beliefs

Written 7/7, the 1456 date where a retrial verdict acquits Joan of Arc of heresy 25 years after her death

This is the cycle we live in now. If we women are strong, if we fight for what's right, with our life, we can lead armies, we'll do everything in our power, & we can do the right thing, and stand on the moral ground, & it may still seem to no avail, for they will kill us for our beliefs. It won't matter in the here & now what happens to us, even if the ones who killed us later acquit us of any wrongdoing. Women face uphill battles every day, but struggles do lead to change, even if only after a lifetime of fighting.

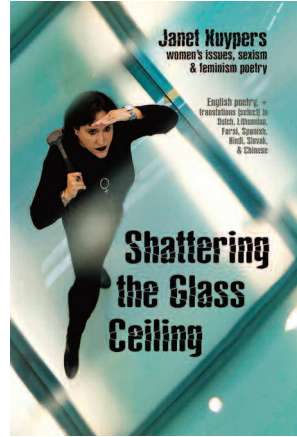


No One Reports for Women

I would start this like a news reporter, saying
“Dateline, *your town here*”,
but news about women’s issues is nonexistent,
which makes women wonder
if concerns for women are nonexistent too.

Recently I heard reports from multiple women
who had been on birth control
for 99% of their fertile lives—
they contracted the most recent variant of Covid-19
*(and yes, they got vaccines and booster shots,
making Covid-19 like getting a minor cold)*
but these women noticed a week after recovery
(two weeks before their period should arrive)
they started spotting, which didn’t stop—
so after ten says, they asked around
and found
that other women were having this trouble
with their reproductive health too,
and no one had researched how to solve it.

But really, think about it: who would have the time
to research something when they worked like mad
just to come up with a vaccine on such short notice?
No one has questioned men’s fertility after Covid-19
and enough immunization to protect you from this...



But maybe the question should be this:
after women can now control their reproductive rights,
does that mean that after following their government's edicts
to "protect" themselves and inject themselves,
they'll still get sick, but, added bonus,
they'll bleed *daily* for it?

Because this is exactly the type of problem
women *don't* want to talk about in public
and trust me, this *shouldn't* be a problem
any woman should *ever* have to deal with.

When women sit alone in their corners
with no support for their *very* personal problems,
they don't know that other women go through this too.
That little level of sympathy
may assuage their feelings,
but it may amount to only a fleeting gesture
to know they're not alone—
for the more you realize how common this may be,
the more any rational woman would wonder
why something isn't being done
to solve what is becoming a real
bloody
problem.

When many women's solution is to search the Internet
they may start to panic when they read reports
that birth control may increase blood clots,
and Covid-19 may exacerbate that risk further,
but, surprise surprise, more research needs to be done
to solve anything for women,
and this *still* doesn't solve
this daily bleeding that men are stating is harmless
(*fine, but men aren't the ones bleeding every day*).
So, this is beginning to sound more like
more of the same, women think,
we are in pain, and nothing is being done.

There may be theories that estrogen and progesterone may play a role in the novel coronavirus

(may this explain the Covid-19 reaction differences between feminine me and my masculine husband?)

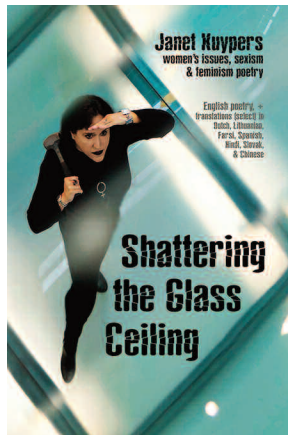
but *taking* estrogen daily, could that effect the vaccine, *or* the virus?

Well, it doesn't matter if one doctor after another hears a stack of anecdotal evidence from their patients, because stories aren't proof, and women are all still stuck, bleeding, with no way to solve their medical problems.

And for the men out there that don't want to think about women bleeding (even though men have no problem with the same women bearing and raising *their* children, which women have to bleed monthly for to make happen), similar stories arise with young women, possibly wanting to have children one day, missing their period *for four months* after getting Covid-19, with irregular periods resuming *(though when one woman talked to her doctor about it, they assumed it was from Covid-19, but to quote the patient, "none seemed too concerned about it.")*

So, welcome to another case of an unexpected medical problem for women that no one can explain...

I jokingly said
that I'd like to start this story
by saying "Dateline (*your town here*)"—
but maybe I should have said all along:
Dateline, *your neighborhood*, or
Dateline, *your street*, or
Dateline, *your home*.
Because after only now hearing
the now upswelling cries
of women who follow the rules
and do what's best for them—
women only suffer for it with no explanation, and
(of course)
can't share their problems
in an effort to solve them.
If women *could* tell their stories
it may only be a stepping stone.
But if women *did* tell their stories,
you may only then realize
how serious
the problems women go through
can really be.



Krypton, Messed With

Twitter-length Periodic Table poem for element #036 (Kr)

When desperate, distill air,
reveal your hidden glow:

a bright white nuclear shock

30 times more of you beneath
Polaris than the Southern Cross
from our nuclear plants

We play with power —
and you stay innocuous
'til we mess with you

We didn't ask for you
to make things worse

Rubidium leads the way to a new state

Twitter-length Periodic Table poem for element #037 (Rb)

States of matter: I know we've mastered
solid, liquid, gas, plasma, but state 5
the Bose-Einstein condensate:
cool atoms to near absolute 0
& atoms move so slow,
every atom acts the same

Cool Rubidium w/ lasers (bye-bye energy)
& Rubidium's no longer in the 4 "disordered" states

Rubidium leads the way to a new state

States of matter: I know we've mastered
solid, liquid, gas, plasma, but state 5
the Bose-Einstein condensate:
cool atoms to near absolute 0
& atoms move so slow,
every atom acts the same

Cool Rubidium w/ lasers (bye-bye energy)
& Rubidium's no longer in the 4 "disordered" states

Jane Dupink
10/18/21
Twitter-length
Periodic Table poem for #37, Rubidium (Rb)

Silver nitrate displaying our brain

Twitter-length Periodic Table poem for element #047 (AgNO_3)

Brain samples from a woman,
from the cortex —
the part for complex thought —
cut into 5,000 wafer-thin slices
& stained w/ the heavy metal
Silver nitrate...
when seen microscopically
give a human brain map
w/ such detail
that our brains will still need years
to decipher our brain

Silver nitrate displaying our brain

Brain samples from a woman,
from the cortex —
the part for complex thought —
cut into 5,000 wafer-thin slices
& stained w/ the heavy metal
Silver nitrate...
when seen microscopically
give a human brain map
w/ such detail
that our brains will *still* need years
to decipher our brain

Janet Kuypers
6/28/21 Twitter poem
#47, AgNO_3

Neodymium magnets up your nose

Twitter-length Periodic Table poem for element #060 (Nd)

Boredom during Coronavirus self-isolation led to an Australian astrophysicist placing Neodymium magnets on both sides of both nostrils... 'til magnets up his nostrils stuck to each other *through* his nose. He had to go to the hospital to get Neodymium, stuck, out from up his nose.

NEODYMIUM MAGNETS UP YOUR NOSE

Boredom during Coronavirus self-isolation led to an Australian astrophysicist placing Neodymium magnets on both sides of both nostrils... 'til magnets up his nostrils *stuck* to each other *through* his nose. He had to go to the hospital to get Neodymium, stuck, out from up his nose.

Janet Foye[®]
10/19/21 Twitter-length

Periodic Table poem for #60, Neodymium (Nd)

Knowingly Live, Purposely Live

written 7/12, on the birthday of Henry David Thoreau (1817)

life is as precious
as you make it

and life is as deliberate
as you choose it to be

we all make choices
without thinking about it

which is why we may wonder
how we got into this hole

and how on earth
can we get out —

and through all this mess
we only feel lost

#

oftentimes, it is only after
we make that conscious choice

when we actively believe
and act on our beliefs

that we begin to feel
alive again.

*oh, you may say
you have beliefs,*

*this talking so much
about beliefs*

*is overreacting,
we've been fine all along*

this is just how everyone lives

yes, and everyone wallows
in the pit that no one remembers

falling
into

so stop passively letting others
dictate your lives and control you

once you realize what is happening
step out and say something

because civil disobedience
isn't the act of the insane

it is a measure people take

when they realize
things have gone too far

and they can't just
sit back and do nothing

#

if you are lost
seek the truth

as all philosophers do
with every thought

#

the definition
of a philosopher

is a person who
seeks the truth

because after all
modern life shares

it only espouses
unnecessary complexity

so think this over:
the true key may be

to live simply, to live
in harmony with nature

and commune with
our surroundings

once you do that
it will seem simple

to live deliberately,
to live strategically

and suddenly,
once you begin

to think through life,
you'll see that

you're no longer lost


About Janet Kuypers

Professional performance artist and publisher, Janet Kuypers (<http://www.janetkuypers.com>) is a writer and photographer, editing 2 literary magazines through Scars Publications (<http://scars.tv>). She has 100+ books published of her work (poetry, prose, novels, art), most available globally through Amazon. She hosted the Café Gallery Chicago poetry open mic (<http://scars.tv/thecafe>), and since 2019 hosts the monthly “Poetic License” Austin, TX open mic, which is now global due to post-coronavirus pandemic Zoom format (http://scars.tv/Poetic_License). Performing spoken word and music nationally (with band shows in Chicago, Round Rock TX, and Fairbanks Alaska) she sung in 3 bands, and her 40+ CD releases appear at iTunes, Amazon, and others. Profiled in such magazines as *Nation*, Kuypers won the Poetry Ambassador award and Poet of the Year, and has been nominated for multiple Pushcart prizes. Once running Internet radio stations and a poetry podcast, she frequents radio, national and local television.



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