Janet Kuypers poetry about aquatic animals read in Salado, TX 5/7/22





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 <u>all</u> 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.

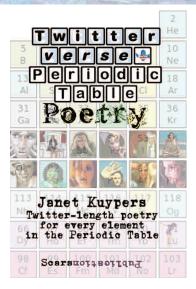




only tiny bits of Bismith
are in the pacific... not inlike
the one lonesome whale
the navy heard, at 52 hertz—
higher than what any whale can hear

vnedia, vnusicians vnourned, we all understood that loneliness—

until ocean audio heard two 52 Hz sounds, proving no one's truly alone



Janet Kuypers

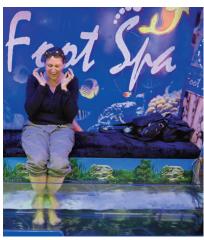
Only Recourse

Kittens watched me walk away before I stepped on a plane flying me sixteen hours away to a time zone eleven and a half hours early

Stepping off the plane, exhausted I saw hundreds of fish in a long glass aquarium along the floor as they advertised a fish "pedicure"

Now, I've swam to ocean floor sharks, I've had barracuda circling my feet, so, I thought, 'an all-natural way to feed fish and relieve my feet, what a treat'

So, I sat down as hundreds of fish swam by for a nibble, and I couldn't stop giggling the entire time



Now, I'm a lover of animals I wouldn't kill them to wear them or eat them, so only years later did I learn from the New Delhi Times "aa bail mujhe maar" (आ बेल मुझे मार): the problem humans caused exploiting thousands of animals to create some extravagant, unneeded, unnecessary niche market

These little fish, called Garra rufa, are specially grown in tanks and imported into India, eating human flesh when *starved* of their plankton and vegetable diet

These mistreated fish suffer with systemic bacterial infections for their eyes, mouth, gills, abdomen

and their excrement has all this in that water we humans are all charmed into immersing our feet in

I mean, some of these foot baths may even cause Hepatitis C and HIV

as I said before,

what a treat

This water was once tested in a shipment where a slew of different bacteria thrived, resistant to most antimicrobial medications, that cause soft tissue infections — and since this isn't a medical procedure, there's no oversight whatsoever

Janet Kuypers

I put my feet in a tank like this once, thinking I was doing something good for these fish.

Silly me.
I should remember that when it comes to humans, the first thing they think when it comes to animals is abuse, so, in this case, we should think about how to help these thousands of animals instead.

I mean, I believe
I am a concerned citizen
to help women trapped
in physical or sexual abuse,
I immerse myself in other cultures
to assist all who do not fit
the Caucasian mold.
And I think being a vegetarian is enough
to help all animals on planet Earth,
but...

I once inadvertently became a willing participant in a system to support the torture and abuse of thousands and thousands and thousands—



and I giggled about it the entire time, too.



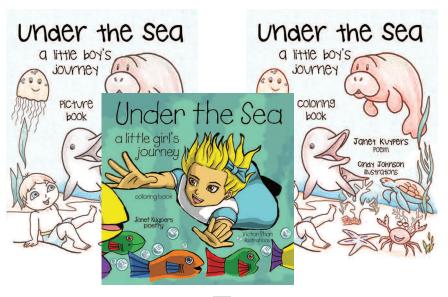
It makes me wonder: did I mistreat the fish I kept in an aquarium, including the Blue Gills from a lake that could have become someone else's meal? Well, I didn't starve them, where their only recourse was consuming human flesh... because. really, if we're all about love, how do we show it if we turn a blind eye to give concern to our comfort instead. Because, of course, giving ourselves comfort is all well and good, but wonder the real cost of a feel-good, step back, and embrace the big picture. Because when we see the good one thing can do, that's the *real* comfort — for everyone.

7



Under The Sea

I'd like to be Under the sea To see the fish go swim, I'd like to squish A jelly fish And then let go of him. I'd like to grab A soft-shelled crab And take him for a walk I'd like to hurdle Over a turtle And teach dolphins to talk. I'd like to see A manatee And then go play by him, I'd like to do All of these things If only I could swim!



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