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B R I N G I N G
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B E A C H

Janet Kuypers' post-Roe v. Wade poetry
from her book "TESTAMENT" 7/2/23
© her Chicago "Beach Poets" feature

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About Janet Kuypers

<http://www.janetkuypers.com>

Professional performance artist and publisher, Janet Kuypers 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 Cafe Gallery (<http://scars.tv/thecafe>) Chicago poetry open mic, and hosts the monthly Poetic License open mic which is now global (<http://scars.tv/Poetic License>) with Zoom meetings. Performing spoken word and music nationally (with band shows in Chicago, Round Rock TX, and 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.



Unless it's about suppressing life

Before the overturning of Roe v. Wade,
A Number of the United States *in* America
Set “trigger laws” that would instantly
Restrict a woman’s right to an abortion.

“Trigger laws.” That sounds just a little
Second Amendmenty, doesn’t it? Or
Would that be Second Amendmentish—
You get the point, the right to bear arms.

This is woven into the U.S. Constitution,
Originally under the premise to protect
Ourselves from a government gone wrong*...
Now revered for hunt, sport, protection.

These trigger laws are *about* killing — from
The stroke of a pen instead of a weapon —
Because no, these trigger laws are not about
Stopping the killing of something yet to live...

They're about killing the rights of women,
Plain and simple. *Now* these trigger laws
Are proof that the Second Amendment
Is alive and well, no matter which side

Of the political aisle you claim allegiance.
Americans want that Second Amendment
So much that they want to be ready to kill
At the drop of a hat, then use trigger laws

To remove rights from half of their people too.
Don't think these people care for embryos
When they don't care for foster children,
Kids that are suffering, already alive —

That's not the issue. It's not about life at all
Unless it's about suppressing life, either
From the stroke of a pen through a religious
Edict, or the pulling of your precious trigger.



* From the poem "The State of the Nation"

Just Checking my Religions

After the overturning of Roe v. Wade,
I believe over half of these United States
Had “trigger laws” that would instantly
Restrict abortions or make them illegal.

These christian “conservatives” think
They’re helping an unborn “child”, when
Their own bible doesn’t agree with them,
And they only restrict women instead.

But christians, if you are so hung-ho
On imposing your religion as law, tell me
Why a fetus in the U.S. government doesn’t
Get a Social Security Number, or why

No priest can bless a stillborn or a mis-
Carriage because it was never considered
Alive. What does that say for protecting
A non-living thing over an adult female?

Speaking of religion as law (which I think
Is something the United States wants to
Shy away from), what of the Jewish people,
who don’t believe life begins at conception —

Or that a fetus is a full person deserving
Equal rights to human beings. Jewish law
Gives a fetus the full status of a human
At birth, and the Talmud indicates that

Until 40 days of gestation, the fetus is
“Mere water”. Ancient rabbis considered
A fetus as part of the mother, and it was
Fully dependent on the mother, and she

Had full rights to do whatever she wanted
With her body. So if the new conservative
christians impose these restrictions, they
Constitutionally break the first amendment

And deny Freedom of Religion for some?
I don't think you conservative christians
Are still holding a grudge on this killing
jesus thing, but trying to make your religion

Law is actually illegal, and in the Constitution.
So, really... at this point, what laws do you
Hope to break 'til your unfounded religious
Tenets are law, restricting all Woman-kind?



Vote Changing: the System's Solution

It has been a year
Since siblings told me
They would never visit the state
Which I'm afraid I now claim residence
Since they passed the worst anti-abortion laws.

*(I keep stressing
This isn't my home, I still
Vehemently say this isn't my choice,
But I still live here. What does that say
About my now helplessness against the state.)*

The saddest part
About these laws — no,
Wait, the saddest part is that
So many women have to fight a battle
That's so uphill that rock climbers and athletes

Couldn't stand
A chance against this
New and intrusive state, *that's*
Truly the saddest part... but the saddest part
About these laws, especially for those who don't think

They're directly,
Immediately affected
By the restrictive passing
Of these laws, is that, after fighting so long,
You now read news about the one-year-anniversary

Of SB 8, limiting
Abortion rights, and
The now swaying of Texas
Opinions is that well over half of Texans
Now strongly support abortion rights*. After one

Long arduous year,
I see photos of Texas
Women in my now-town marching,
Depicting signs of the Texas flag stating,
“Don’t Mess with Texas Women”^{***}. (*And of course,*

*The woman in the photo is
Just about the only one with her
Mask off, either to show her disgust
For the restrictive law, or so she can claim
Her fifteen minutes of fame.*) This is a noble cause,

But we’ve already
Been “messed” with, so...
Then what. My isolation escalates,
As I read surveys^{***} suggesting a change
In the winds. But surveys and polls don’t pass laws —

Or overturn them.
Like Queen Elizabeth II
Who *just* passed away, I have
Never told people how to vote, though that’s
All that any news article or report can talk about now.

I have heard
That independents, or
People who have voted Republican,
Are now changing their mind this one time
And voting for a democrat, if it gives women rights.

I won’t tell you
What to do. I never will —
Because I cannot tell you that the
Platform of one political party is worth
Changing your vote over a single issue — even if

The issue is
Life and death for women,
Versus life and death for clumps
Of cells, which, wait a minute, don't
Understand or fathom life as we know it. You'd

Think it was
A simple decision,
You'd think it was cut-and-dry,
As it should be. But when the cards are
So stacked against women's rights, think again.

It makes me wonder
If voting for change is
Literally the only thing we can
Do. Do the signs and protests matter.
Does anyone listen when our complaints and cries

Seem to fall
On deaf ears. When
Backwards irrationality prevails,
How does being the loudest voice on the street
Make an ounce of difference. If a person protests

In the middle
Of a forest of people,
Does it make a sound to any
Lawmakers who chose to close their
Ears to reason. For *how* will they listen to the truth.

* <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/01/1120472842/poll-one-year-after-sb-8-texans-express-strong-support-for-abortion-rights>

** <https://media.npr.org/assets/img/2022/09/01/gettyimages-1233172256-08d4b6483cbbdbb9fec939969ba2b67db25ad0d5-s1800-c85.webp>

*** https://tfn.org/cms/assets/uploads/2022/08/PerryUdem-Texas-Electorate-on-Abortion_SB-8.pdf

Queueing as Defeatists, But Fighting for Freedom

I don't know why I keep doing it.
I don't know what I'm hoping to find.

Wait, I *do* know what I'm looking for —
I just didn't think it was so impossible to find.

#

Since the overturning of Roe v. Wade,
Something that's been a part of my whole life,

I've been looking for change,
Checking the news, hoping.

So... after searching the news, I see
That France and Israel have chosen

To strengthen their abortion rights for
Women after the U.S.' overturning of

Roe v. Wade. And I know I love Brie
Caprese sandwiches sitting at a Paris café

Looking out on to the street at the passersby,
But I know how quickly they were conquered

By Nazis in World War Two, I've seen
Video footage of Hitler touring his then-

Conquered Paris, so after all these years
It's good to see France being so quick to

Support women's rights. *Merci beaucoup.*
But no, I'm no French girl, and no I'm no

Gal Gadot Israeli overcoming against all—
Even though each and every one of us

Is a Wonder Woman, I still feel like the
Ever-repressed goth girl shunted from her

Soul, shunted from what's right. I know this
Goth girl may be a defeatist at heart, for when

We've seen the evils of the world at an
Early age we can only feign optimism

For the minions, but when something
So cruel is done, even us goth girls

Want to fight. I suppose our only choice
Becomes fighting any way we know how,

To make sure the world knows that these
Select southern United States shouldn't have

The right to steal Liberty and Freedom.
Most must now find a way to fight,

Somehow, any-how, whichever way how
To regain our once and future rights.

Use Any Angle

Biblically, we talk about going to heaven, then
Working for peace... to make heaven on earth

When wanting peace, it starts with not only
Loving all, but treating everyone as equal

Still, women continue as the religious right,
A.K.A. white men, takes away women's rights

It makes me wonder, if women are forced to
Carry a fetus to term to create a new life

Would these stodgy white men care for it,
As well as all of the orphanage and foster kids

That no one will claim, care for, or love?
Because if these conservative christians

Truly believe in the words of their deity,
Then they should help the poor, feed and

Clothe those with none, house the homeless —
Instead of your church pocketing billions

While not paying taxes, and turning our
Focus to claiming to care for an embryo...

*

But it's not about caring for the unborn,
We all know that, it's about restricting
Women's rights — we've been under your
Thumb for millennia, and as we prove we
Can do your jobs (all at less pay, thank you)
As well as juggle your female-defined chores,
Well, you'll have to come up with a new angle
To take different rights away from us.
Because you've had this stranglehold on
Woman-kind for so long, you don't want to
Lose your quote unquote perceived power.
Try any excuse. Use any angle. Do anything
You can so you can still feel like you're
In control. But whatever tactics you use,
We'll circumvent the error in your ways.
It's the only way history moves forward.



Eliminate All Rapists

After Texas' abortion laws last year made no
Excuses for rape, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott
Assured his 'people' by saying, "Texas will ...
Eliminate all rapists from the streets."

I'm sorry, mister Abbott, but what a narrow view,
If you think all rapists are walking the streets to
Search for their next random victim. People
In clinics in your state will tell you that 8 out
Of 10 rapes are someone the woman knows,
So, whether or not you could keep the streets
Clean, the streets aren't the first place you should
Look, but to the men these women once trusted.

Eliminating all rapists is a wonderful idea, so
Sayeth this acquaintance rape workshop facilitator,
But it's really a mystical, magical idea in the end
When the mentality of many men has to change
Before you law enforcement types can begin to
Climb this already uphill battle, eons in the making.

For critics say Greg Abbott's statements seem to be
Detached from reality, when sexual assault hotlines
In Houston are going just as strong post-Texas-rights-
Removing-and-debilitating-to-women-law-passing
Versus before Abbott passed this to hurt women so.

You can't will something terrible like this away
With a single press release or a public statement,
Especially when the only thing Texas *has* done
To *stop* rape is to try to remove the backlog of
Rape *test kits*. Thanks for being on women's side
Once again, governor. We should know that if
You'll take away our rights in one place, your
Behavior won't change to help us ever, anywhere.

Old Enough to Choose

Reading the headlines, I kept thinking... this cannot be true —
But this many headlines in sync cannot be wrong, that a

Florida court rules teenager 'not mature enough' to have abortion.

This 16-year old parentless girl, working to get her G.E.D., also
Explained that her boyfriend cannot support anyone. Her “guardian

Is fine with what [she] wants to do,” so she researched this,
Even sent hand-written requests for court approval. To which

They said no, she is not mature enough to have an abortion...
Though apparently this parentless unemployed 16-year-old

Is old enough to give up her future to birth and raise a child
On her own with no money until she is more than twice her age.

#

Usually the #1 issue behind voting decisions is the economy;
Struggling economic figures and rising prices for food and gas

Hurts democrat candidates... so republicans didn't believe that
Abortion rights for women or climate change would be an issue.

But voters come out in droves, especially gen Z. Although they
Did voice their concerns for the economy, there was a much more

Basic moral issue on the ballot... These southern christian republican
Men give us more reasons to vote for change once we see the

Effects of what the removing of these rights really means for
Anyone who is not an old, wealthy, white male. A man in a

Stuffy suit smoking his cigar might feel he has enough sway
To decide what is best for women, or the financially challenged,

But his choices *always hit hardest on minorities (and oddly
Enough, in the political world, women become a minority too).*

Maybe they closed their ears to our protests, thinking they
Were on a morally higher ground (a stance that supports

Clumps of cells inside a woman, but ignores them once they're
Born — which, come to think of it, is not very christian).

Rattling the metal bars they've locked us up behind wasn't
Enough, and the last time *I* checked, stripping away rights

Was precisely what the U.S. government was supposed to
Stop. *Preserving* our rights was the key, and not taking a

Hatchet to our inalienable rights in the first place. Maybe
Voting is only a step, until they realize their “moral” choices

Were actually more *immoral*, and they start to worry about
Lives that are actually *living*. How loud are we forced to roar

To get your attention, before you might listen to reason,
Re-evaluate your premises, and start supporting the life —

The living, breathing, intelligent, vibrant life —
That for far too long you've chosen to ignore.

* <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/aug/17/florida-pregnant-teenager-abortion-court>

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/florida-court-rules-16-year-mature-abortion/story?id=88491662>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/florida-court-says-teen-not-mature-enough-abortion-rcna43344>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/florida-judges-rule-teenage-girl-is-not-mature-enough-to-have-an-abortion>

<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/florida-court-rules-16-year-old-not-mature-enough-abortion-1397645/>

X and Y, and what's Seizing the Sexes

What is it that sets the sexes so apart.
Yes, I know, I know, there are
Biological differences between
Men and women, and those who
Rely on the bible with tell you
Woman was made from the
Rib of man, it's cut and dry when
Adhering to Christian religion
That *woman's* an extension of man.
But... for women who *don't* believe
The bible's *word* on that, when
Women were rulers of past cultures,
We know that if we *didn't* live under
Man's foot at our necks, we may sing
"Anything you can do I can do better."

So really, I've been wondering what
Sets the sexes so apart, maybe it's the
Science, since the sex of us human
Types (and all mammals, too) is
Only decided by the male-determining
Y chromosome. Women have two
X chromosomes that contain about
900 genes each that do all sorts of jobs...
As for the men out there, they carry
Only 1 X chromosome, and 1 Y
Chromosome, which contains *fewer*
Genes (like, I'm talking only 55).

One of those genes kick-starts male
Development in the embryo, but the
Rest of that Y chromosome is
Technically a lot of non-coded DNA,
Which, in effect, means there's a lot of
Junk there that doesn't do anything.

*Wow, I didn't realize science
Could logically explain what
Many of us rationally-minded
Have already hypothesized...*

But I was researching this to find the
Root to our differences, & I learned
That the Y chromosome may actually
Be starting to disappear, and that
There are men out there now with
Two X chromosomes and no Y —
Still *with* male parts & male sex drive.

Because... I hear of people identifying
As one gender or another, and it
Makes me wonder, what is the real
Difference.

Because we all have been led to
Believe that biology identifies us —
And it may — but the more science I learn,
The more I see that *how* people identify,
That could *also* play a role
when science *and* society
both define humanity.

For now that I live in this post-gender-defining world, and
Forgetting to place “she/her” in parentheses after my name,
I only think back to living in the Chicago streets,
Where I've seen too much violence first-hand toward women
(no matter how they defined their gender).

For there's no comfort how you define yourself
When a woman still fears for her safety
When walking down the street,
Holding each key from her key ring between
Each knuckle in self-defense...

For however society may define he/she/they/them,
Biology will still worm its way into the very base
Of not only *ourselves*, but also our *protection*, and
Ultimately our *rights*.
For how we "identify" will be damned
When biology uses brute force
To take what they want, *identity be damned*.
For it doesn't matter how rich or how poor,
How affluent or how downtrodden a female
May be when it comes to rape, or coercion
Which leads to a pregnancy, *caused by a man*,
That *she/her/them/they all* have to deal with,
Entirely on their own.

Well, they don't even get that choice any more
Post the overturning of Roe v. Wade, if they
Live in a bible-belt state
*(which very possibly is also
a state that supported slavery)*
Living in a regressive state that
Chooses to take choice away
From women after "man" caused the now
Fiasco women ultimately couldn't control.

So, now it's all a matter of
Choice be damned for women...
and
Gender identity be damned
When it's still about biology,
And men couldn't care less
How you identify yourself.

For let's face it, ladies,
You've got the parts, but
You don't have a choice.
Yes, I can agree with you,
It's a nice warm feeling
To be able to define who you are
To the world without fear of consequences.
But it's a brutally *cold* feeling
When more basic biological choices
Are taken away from you first.
For at this point in the game,
I worry so desperately about
What sets the sexes so apart,
While some, no matter *how*
They define their gender,
Can still make choices that can
Destroy the rights of so many more.
Whose rights are worth saving,
Wait a minute, what am I saying...
Rights are worth saving,
No matter the gender,
No matter how they identify themselves.
Rights are worth saving,
No matter what sets the sexes so apart.



Information Carries Weight

Dateline: physics...

A new experiment could confirm

A fifth state of matter in the universe,

Alongside solid, liquid, gas and plasma.

If this is true,

It could upend

What we think of as

What could carry weight.

Physicist Dr. Melvin Vopson has already

Published research suggesting that

Information has mass and that all

Elementary particles store information —

DNA for humans does this too,

But if this is true —

Everything stores information, and

Information carries weight.

If you think this is a joke, then take *this*

With a 50-pound block of salt:

Hard drives with information on them

Weigh more than empty hard drives.

If information were a 5th state of matter,

It would change physics as we know it:

Expanding our understanding of the Universe,

all while in harmony with the laws of physics.

“It doesn’t contradict quantum mechanics,
Electrodynamics, thermodynamics or
Classical mechanics — it ... [actually]
Complements physics,” said Dr. Vopson,

Not unlike a poem.

Dr. Vopson even postulates that *if* information
Is the 5th state of matter — it may even
Explain the “dark matter” we keep
Guessing about but cannot see.

Latest scientific papers outline
How to put these theories to the test:
To detect and measure the information
In elementary particles, by *annihilating* them —

Energy would turn into gamma photons,
Particles containing information would
Convert into low-energy infrared photons...
So, these infrared photons would emerge

After erasing information.

If this is true, maybe information
Is a fundamental building block
Of our Universe. So maybe it’s true
That all the information we ever knew —

From the genocide of millions to
Destroying dictators; or building bridges
To traversing skyscrapers, all that,
With... learning the fluidity of dance,

Listening to music, studying art,
Reading and writing poetry —
Maybe it all melds with the histories
Taught in schools, or the Periodic Table

We memorized in class and thought
We'd never have a need for. Maybe all that
Physics *is* stuck in the backs of our
Brains, to make us stronger... or to

Give us the weight we need
When facing new challenges
Accosting our rights. When
People try to push us backward,

Maybe this information gives us
Our tools to fight ignorance, until
We can move forward again. We
Never thought we needed all that

Information, but we didn't realize:
Information carries weight,
And... that information may be the
Most fundamental force after all.

BRINGING women's BATTLES to the BEACH

Janet Kuypers
post-Roe v. Wade poetry
7/2/23 "Beach Poets" show



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