

# twitter inside

05/21/10

Janet Kuypers

poetry & music feature

at Regina's Place

Logan Square, Chicago

# Keep Them Apart

they say headlights run in parallel lines  
the never touch  
but you know,  
when humans try to recreate science  
they never get it right  
and i don't care how many miles it takes  
i don't care how long it takes  
but eventually  
they will touch  
they will cross  
they will intermingle for one brief moment

you think they're meant to stay apart  
you think you've done everything humanly possible  
to keep them apart

but they'll come together  
trust me

it doesn't matter where that car is traveling  
to Colorado, through Utah  
to California to Las Vegas  
even through Texas, past New Orleans  
it doesn't matter if we have to kick people out of your home  
it doesn't matter if we have to act like nothing's going on  
because at some point,  
no matter how far away  
no matter how remote  
we'll get together

even if it's only to cross each other  
then go our separate ways

# Only For One Night

I had left everything  
and I stumbled upon you

I didn't know what I was looking for  
but when I came to you  
I thought

from here  
I've got a nice view  
and I thought that was enough

you had the same anger in you as I  
and I didn't think anything of it  
until I was alone  
and saw that we could be  
angrily, passionately together  
even if it was only for one night

# Got on the Road Again

I had slept in my car  
waiting to see you

after scrubbing my clothes  
with a small bar of soap in a sink  
in some no-name hotel  
I drove across the country  
my clothes held down  
by closed windows at the seams  
as American roads dried my clothes  
And made me ready for you

you greeted me with cosmopolitans  
and casinos that harmonized  
their winning and losing chimes

and it was harmonizing  
when I won with you

but I had to pack up again  
this is what I do, you know  
so I gathered my clothes  
saved them for the suitcase  
and got on the road again

## Out of my Element

I love writing in a café, a bar  
working, thinking  
but I only do this  
when I'm out of town

when I'm out of my element  
that's when I get out

## How He Failed

“I’m disappointed in you”  
he said to me  
& I wonder  
if he ever felt disappointed  
in how he failed  
as a father

## Drinking Their Life Away

In Eu rope, everyone is so well educated  
even if there aren't even enough jobs  
you see highly intellectual bums  
drinking their life away

# labeled me again

they gave me a straight jacket  
slapped on a bracelet

i contorted out of the straight jacket  
tore the wrist ID

please don't

they labeled me again

## prefer things soft

we slept on his hard China bed  
he slept on the sofa bed  
when he slept on his sofa bed  
his back didn't hurt

us Americans prefer things soft

## Became a Jungle

he wanted plants around  
he wanted something living  
& since my mom died  
my home has become a jungle  
because I don't want anything to die

## Now I'm strong

In the past I always thought I was alone  
I was wrong  
You helped me by giving love and giving hope  
Now I'm strong

## Spit Me Out

if I sat down, I couldn't get up  
because you sucked me in  
and I'm waiting for you to spit me out

## Painted Buddhas

when in Beijing  
I saw a wooden wall  
with many rows  
of tiny  
sculpted  
painted Buddhas  
some Buddhas  
had their heads torn off  
& I thought  
hmmm

## Swallowing Sand & Pebbles

I didn't want this world to hear me anymore  
they're not worth it  
so I ate a sponge to absorb my words  
I ate a candle  
to melt me down  
but softness wasn't working  
so I ate a Brillo pad

this was too rough  
but nothing's rough enough,  
I tell you

I'll keep swallowing sand & pebbles  
I won't even wash it down with gasoline

# Loss

walked with you in an ALS rally  
after I had locked my keys in my car

saw you a few times  
after they told me you were sick

you looked fine  
you looked good

I couldn't see anything wrong with you

\*

finally, I would call you  
ask if you could still drive a car

and I invited you to visit me  
so we could spend some time together

and you would say, why  
so I'd have a new tv to watch for a while

I didn't want this to happen to you,  
I swear

your family watch lupis take a loved one  
and now ALS consumes you

your mind is just fine  
that's what the doctors tell me

it's just that your nervous system  
is breaking you down cellularly

and your crystal clear, sharp mind  
has to stand by and watch yourself fall apart

I know this is rare  
but it's progressive, degenerative, fatal

and watching you go through this  
increasing and spreading muscular weakness

as you live through your days now  
I imagine hearing your heartbeat

like the flapping of hummingbird wings  
under water

I know I'm not the one suffering  
but I am

\*

I know I've lived through hell  
but it's not fair that I survived

just to watch this happen to you

\*

went to a funeral today  
and saw you there

wheelchair bound, slurred speech  
thin as a rail

but still smiling when you saw me  
and I had to smile and small talk with you

with you, who could barely speak  
and I had to act like everything was okay

your friend held your cigarette outside with you  
put the cigarette to your lips

so you could inhale, then he pulled it away  
to wait for your next breath

\*

I couldn't stay at the funeral too long  
today I had seen too much death

## my love for you will stay the same (a song)

everybody's dreaming  
everybody's screaming

everybody's looking for some shelter from the storm  
and everybody's looking for someone to keep them warm  
but I don't wanna play if you're a temporary game  
my love for you will stay the same  
my love for you will stay the same  
(my love for you)

now the tide is turning  
the fire embers burning

everybody wants to find a way to shed the shame  
everybody wants to find a way to share the blame  
but you can put me through the heartache, I can take the pain  
my love for you will stay the same  
my love for you will stay the same  
(my love for you)

the rhythm in your fingers  
the memory still lingers

listen to your flowers now, the petals scream out loud  
and all these seasons come and go without a single sound  
i can hear the flower petals calling out your name  
my love for you will stay the same  
my love for you will stay the same  
(my love for you)

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## other publications from Scars:

**Magazines:** *Children, Churches and Daddies* (cc&d magazine), founded June 1993; *Down in the Dirt*, conceived 1994, founded 2000

**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 Gears, the Key to Believing, Domestic Blisters, Etc., Oeuvre, Exaro Versus, L'arte, The Other Side, The Boss Lady's Editorials, The Boss Lady's Editorials (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, cc&d v167.5 (Writing to Honour & Cherish, editor edition), Blister & Burn (the Kuypers edition), S&M, cc&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 & v2), Finally, Literature for the Snotty and Elite (v1, v2 & part 1), a Wake-Up Call From Tradition, (recovery), Dark Matter: the Mind of Janet Kuypers, Evolution, Sulphur & Sawdust, Slate & Marrow, Blister & Burn, Rinse & 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 Silences, Unlocking the Mysteries, the Book of Scars, We The Poets, Life on the Edge, Revealing all your Dirty Little Secrets, Decrepit Remains, Charred Remnants, Hope & 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, Infamous in our Prime, Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art, the Electronic Windmill, Changing Woman, the Swan Road, the Significance of the Frontier, The Svetasvatara Upanishad, Harvest of Gems, the Little Monk, Death in Málaga, Momento Mori, In the Palace of Creation, R.I.P., Bob the Bumble Bee, Remnants and Shadows, I Saw This, the Drive, Thomas at Tea, Crashing Down Nineteenth, Blue Collar Ballet, noepom, In Your Heart, the Apostrophe's Teardrops of God, the Adventures of the Key to Believing Bear, Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art (second printing), Deckard Kinder / Charlie Newman*

**Compact Discs:** *Mom's Favorite Vase* the demo tapes, *Kuypers* the final (MFV Inclusive), *Weeds and Flowers* the beauty & the desolation, *The Second Axing* Something is Sweating, *The Second Axing* Live in Alaska, *Pettus & Kuypers* Live at Cafe Aloha, *Pointless Orchestra* Rough Mixes, *Kuypers* Seeing Things Differently, *SD/SD* Tick Tock, *Kuypers* Change Rearrange, *Order From Chaos* The Entropy Project, *Kuypers* Six One One, *Kuypers* Stop., *Kuypers* Masterful Performances mp3 CD, *Kuypers* Death Comes in Threes, *Kuypers* Changing Gears, *Kuypers* Dreams, *Kuypers* How Do I Get There?, *Kuypers* Contact • Conflict • Control, *the DMJ Art Connection* the DMJ Art Connection, *Kuypers* Questions in a World Without Answers, *Kuypers* SIN, *Kuypers* WZRZ Radio (2 CD set), *Mom's Favorite Vase* and *The Second Axing* These Truths, *assorted artists* String Theory, Oh (audio CD), *Life At The Cafe* (3 CD set), *the DMJ Art Connection* Indian Flux, *the DMJ Art Connection* Manic Depressive or Something, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #1, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #2, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #3, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #4, *Chaotic Radio* Chaotic Radio Week #5, *Chaotic Radio* the Chaotic Collection Collection #01-05 (5 CD set) etc. (audio CD, 2 CD set), *Chaotic Elements* (2 CD set), *Chaos in Motion* (6 CD set), *SD/SD* Screeching to a Halt (EP), *PB&J* Two for the Price of One (EP), *Kiki, Jake and Haystack* An American Portrait, *Kuypers/the Bastard Trio/Paul Baker/the JoAnne Powers Trio* Fusion (4 CD set), *podcasts* the Evolution of Performance Art (13 CD set), *Kuypers* Live (14 CD set), *the DMJ Art Connection* the Things They Did to You (2 CD set), *Kuypers* Seeing a Psychiatrist (3 CD set), *Kuypers* St. Paul's (3 CD set), *Kuypers* the 2009 Poetry Game Show (3 CD set), *Kuypers* and the *HAL*man of South Africa Burn Through Me (2 CD set)