

A photograph of a man and a woman embracing on a wooden pier. The man is wearing a light blue polo shirt and dark shorts, and the woman is wearing a dark top and light-colored shorts. They are both smiling. The background shows a body of water and a bright sky.

Love

*Janet Kuypers feature of love poems
at Poetry's "Love Letter" 4/10/15 in Chicago*

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bio Chicago poet Janet Kuypers is a professional performance artist, a writer, photographer, and a literary magazine editor running Scars Publications, which hosts two literary magazines, publishes books and releases CDs. With over 90 books published (as of 02/27/15 of poetry, prose, novels and art), she has sung in 3 acoustic bands, and worked with 8 music groups (combining her poetry with music. In 2010 she will begin hosting a weekly Chicago open mic *the Café Gallery*, with a weekly podcast. Her CD releases (40+ in 2012) appear at iTunes and other online vendors, found on line through <http://scars.tv> or <http://www.janetkuypers.com>.

<http://www.facebook.com/janetkuypers>

<http://www.youtube.com/ccandd96>

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eyes

Janet Kuypers

started 4/4/15, finished 4/6/15

Growing up,
boys didn't like me,
kids made fun of me.

I was raised to think
that I was a plain girl,
easily overlooked.

I'd look at my eyes,
the same eyes my dad
thought made me

always look sad,
and wanted to think
that the song

“Brown Eyed Girl”
could have been
about me.

How silly of me.

I should know better.

And maybe that is why

I've always loved
blue eyes.
Eyes not like mine.

#

The eye is a fascinating thing,
it's beautiful to study,
especially yours...

If I were a biologist,
I'd take high-res photos
of that eye of yours,

maybe magnify it as large
as I could, so I could study it
like a slide under a microscope.

I would search for meaning
in those mesmerizing patches
and shades of that unique blue.

#

They say science
can explain all,
so maybe it can explain

why I'm so in love
with your eyes, or why
I'm so in love with you.

#

Eyes are our windows
to the outside world, but
they're also portals inward,

giving us mere mortals
fleeting glimpses
to who you are inside.

I think our colored irises
floating on an ocean of white,
punctuated with a pupil

were designed that way
so we could follow
each other's gazes closely.

I'm watching you.

You probably see that.

I hope you'll watch me too.

Because scientists
have studied the crypts,
pigment dots and furrows

of the eye, and scientists
are now figuring out
that the eye really is

the window to the soul.

So, maybe I was
on the right track

by loving your eyes,
and never wanting
to lose sight of them again.

just you

Janet Kuypers

4/7/15

when I met you
I knew there was something about you

I didn't know
what it was, but I had to find you to find out

look in the bowels
of the Chicago train stations to see your face

stand on my toes,
stretch tall, look for you in a crowded hall

do a double-take
when a motorcyclist or bicyclist speeds by

If you have to,
wear a mask, swim to the sharks in the Pacific

climb the Alps,
stand on a glacier, traverse the Great Wall

keep looking —
there has to be something about you

I had no choice
I had to find you

but I realized
that it wasn't something about you at all

I couldn't describe
what it was about you that made me need you

because it wasn't something about you at all
it was just you

electricity

Janet Kuypers

4/4/15

— almost didn't believe it,
but
there was enough
electricity
between us
to power a small city.
Well, maybe Kane.
Or maybe Logan Square...

Every once in a while
my hair stands up
on my arms,
at the base of my neck.
I feel the electricity in the air,
and I wonder:
is it just me,
or do you feel
the electricity between us
still
when we're suddenly
in the same room.

jihadists and astrophysics

Janet Kuypers

4/5/15

I know gangs in Chicago
shoot people on the streets.

I know terrorists
fly airplanes into buildings,
set off bombs in basements.

I know jihadists
chop off the heads
of anyone who doesn't believe
the way they do.

#

I know these high rises I adore
will one day crumble
and be reduced to the dust
from which we came.

I know the sun one day
will swell to touch
the only earth we know,
incinerating our only home.

#

I know anything I say
may only be a shout
into a void.

#

But I also know
that I love you,
and that love transcends
the killings,
the destruction.

I have loved you
since before I was born.

This is why
I am so lucky
that I found you.

And there may be gunfire,
there may be explosions,
buildings may crumble.

Our earth's oceans
won't save us
from our red giant sun —

but what I have for you,
this love I have for you,
this love transcends all.

It has existed,
it does exist,
it will always exist.

You may believe
there are too many things
we need to save ourselves from,

but we have one constant
we cannot forget.

My love for you

has existed,
it does exist,
and it will always exist.

My love for you

will outlast the beheadings,
rise above the explosions,
transcend the destruction.

My love for you
transcends the jihadists.
It transcends astrophysics.

It transcends the earth, the stars,
it transcends the elements
that make you and I,
that make the universe itself.

My love for you
will always
transcend.

drowning

Janet Kuypers

*quoted passage from "The Crown of Embers" by Rae Carson
4/4/15 haiku*

"I love you the way
a drowning man loves air." I'm
lifeless without you

only philosophy

Janet Kuypers

4/4/15

there is a philosophy in the arc of a bullet
from a nine mil
until you watch that copper jacket
pierce that paper
still at fifty yards,
slicing through that target
and tearing that jagged oval
just an inch or two
from the center of that perfect circle.

there is a philosophy in the trees and crumpled leaves
under your step,
under your bike tires
when you hear the birds chirping
as you make your way
through the beauty of nature
while regaining your sanity
after the madness of your workday.

there is a philosophy in looking at that open road
and thinking "I can do this,"
before you decide to push that engine
faster than it has ever gone before.
You remain in control of this beast
and smile when the speedometer
goes as high as it can
and still doesn't do you justice.

there is a philosophy in arching your back,
stretching your arms,
contorting your legs
when you realize
that you have the power
to master both your body
and your spirit.

there is a philosophy in meeting just the right someone,
spending your first date together
by talking philosophy half the night,
and you thinking,
my god, they're not my clone,
but I didn't know anyone out there
could exist who thinks like me,
and makes me love philosophy again
and reminds me that it's good to be alive.

there has been too much in the world
that has made me struggle to even live,
so trust me, everything philosophically
comes together for you when you find
someone who makes you feel good
to be alive.

there is a philosophy in finding just the right position
to get a good night's sleep —
when you're curled up
in just the right way,
you wish
they would stay curled up with you
like this
forever.

And philosophy may smile upon you
when you realize
they too wish for that with you.
That they like hearing your heart beat
while you listen to their breathing.
But they, they can't sleep,
when they're too intoxicated
when they hear everything
about you
when you are so close.

there is a philosophy in you deciding to do something
not because it makes you happy
but because it would make them happy.

“Selfishness is a virtue,” you think,
but you,
doing this for them,
makes you happy.
It really does.

there is a philosophy in seeing you, actually looking at you,
when we're out together,
facing each other at a table
or sitting next to each other at a bar.
And at that moment, I see you,
and all that is left of the world
is you, and my eyes staring at you.
And suddenly the world stops.
The world is a beautiful place,
because there is only you.

Cast In Stone

Janet Kuypers

11/20/07

I've searched a millenia for you
and my love for you
 will survive through the ages
And if they cast us in stone
it will only cement my love for you
for all to see and admire
because even if the elements
 chip away our outer façades
the marble will smooth in time
and my soul will still flourish
being frozen by your side.

Love

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Magazines:

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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., Ouwere, Exaro Versus, L'arte, The Other Side, The Boss Lady's Editorials (regular and 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 v1&v2 (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, Golgogates, Chapter 38 (v1, v2 & v3), *Fidelity, Literature for the Sassy and Elite (v1, v2 & part 1)*, a Wake-Up Call from Tradition, (recovery), Dark Matter: the Mind of Janet Kuypers, Evolution, (tweet), Get Your Buzz On, Janet & Jean Together, go on, Talking Poetry to the Streets, the Com-Dixie Chicks Union, the Written Word, Deal, Prepare Her for This, Uncertain, Living in a Big World, Pulling the Trigger, Venture to the Unknown, Janet Kuypers: Enriched, She's an Open Book, "40", Section and Other Stories, the Stories of Women, Prominent Pen (Kuypers edition), Enriched, the 2012 Databook, Prominent Tempo, Classic Elements, Fusion, Stability Stability Such Such Such, a Picture's Worth 1,000 words (color art book and ink-art book), Life in Color, Post-Apocalyptic, Ben Through Me, Under the Sea (photo book), Partial Waddy, Revived, 100 Haikus, Give me the News, Let me See you Stripped, Part of my Pain, Rags Scream Life & Death, Say Nothing, Twitterland, when you Dream tonight, Sulphur & Sawdust, Slets & Marrow, Blister & Burn, Rise & 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 Silence, Unlocking the Mysteries, the Book of Stars, We the Poets, Life on the Edge, Revealing our Dirty Little Secrets, Decepti Ramans, Charred Remnants, Hope & Creation, Bending the Curve, Layers of Creation, Dark Matter, Survival of the Fittest, Crawling through the Dirt, Laying the Groundwork, Weathered, who, Ink in my Blood, (bound) 4 editions, Enriched Poetry, cc&d Enriched Prose, Enriched with Dirt, An Open Book, Literary Town Hall (2 editions), Prominent Pen (2 editions), 100 Words, the 2012 Literary Date Book, It Was All Preordained, Cultural Touchstone, the Mission (issue edition and chapbook edition), Purpose, Falling, Cheap Thrills, After the Apocalypse 2013 date book, After the Apocalypse (poetry edition), After the Apocalypse (prose edition), Entanglement, Guilt by Association, don't forget it, don't listen, read., bare minimum, Poet as Sociopath, Drawing, Art is not Meant to be Touched, the Broken Path, a New Pen, Need to Know Basis (redacted edition and extended edition), the "need to know" 2015 literary date book, one Solitary Word, What Must be Done, Infamous in our Prisms, Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art, the Electronic Windmill, Changing Women, the Swan Road, the Significance of the Frontier, the Sweetestwater Unpublished, Harvest of Gems, the Little Monk, Death in Middleage, Moments/Moré, in the Palace of Creation, R.L.P., Bob the Bumble Bee, Remnants and Shadows, "Yes This, the Drive, Thomas at Tea, Cracking Down Hindsight, the Blue Color Baller, anyone, In Your Heart the Apoptosis's Treaders of God, the Adventurers of the Key to Believing Bear, Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art (second printing), *Delectable Under / Charis Newman*, 12 Times 12 Equus Grass, a Marble Nude Pauline Borghese with a Marble Apple in her Marble Hand, Challenge of Night and Day and Chicago Poems, Lighten Up, Not Far From Here, Watershed, You Have Finally Won, Avenue C, Suburban Rhythms, Dawn Syndrome, the Dark Side of Love, the pill is a man's best friend, Angel's Syllable is Good Boss of Devil's Spine, Poems and Stories from the Blue Caller Book of the Dead, Cat People, Death of an Angel, Ghost, Science: A Curmudgeon's View, Ghost Dancers Leaping from a Tome, the 4-D Window, Open Wounds, Anime Junkie, Interstice, Gunter, Cats, Scream Cloud Island, When the World was Black and White, a Petal Under Pavement, The Holy See of CEE, Book 15 ~ Thailand to Volcanoes, Lost in an Echo, I Was Charles Bronson's Secret Hostage, Erasable Bond, Royal Dano's Death Scene 'tis of Thee, Understood, Akshai Shotgun, Champagne - Hot Water, How a Ballet Behaves, the Thing in the Loomer of Wagon/Wheel (I Come in Avanti), Postcards from Exile, the Five Stages of Macbeth, Stay in Formation, Shadowing Other Footprints, the Girl Mead Two and Other Poems, Major Arcana, Give What! You Can, Down in the Dirt 08&A, Come Fly With Me, Clearing the Debris, Sectioned & Sequestered, Six Six Six, Skeletal Remains, Out of the Web, Don't Tread on Me, Lines of Intensity, Entering the Ice Age, When the World Settles, Into the White, Along the Surface, Life... from Nothing, the Line to Power, For the Forceman, Down In It, Falling Into Place, Wake Up and Smell the Flowers, Unknown, Looking Beyond, Forever Bond, The World Burn, Exploding on the Scene, America the Lost, Moving the Earth, Catch Fire in the Treetops, Wisdom in Broken Hens, Autumn Again, Up In Smoke, Symbols Manifest, No Return, Grounded, Perfectly Imperfect, Wrapping It Up, I Pull the Strings, a Link in the Chain, Shot out of a Cannon, am i really extant, Home at Last, Inevitable Ink, a new era, Hols, Friction, See Duff, Spiraling, and Then He Moved, a Creative Journey, a Rural Story, Beyond the Gates, Treading Water, the Curve of Arctic Air, Black, Cat, Idea

Compact Discs

Men's Favorite Year: the Home tapes, Kuypers the Ined (MP3 included), Woods and Flowers the beauty & the desolation, The Second Aiding Something is Something, The Second Aiding Live in Alaska, Pettis & Kuypers Live at Cafe Aloha, Painless Orchestra Bough, Kuypers Songs Things Unlikely, SD/SD Trk Ink, Kuypers Change Rearrange, Order From Chaos The Entropy Project, Kuypers So One Day, Kuypers Sing, Kuypers Musical Performances #2 CD, Kuypers Death Comes in Threes, Kuypers Changing Gears, Kuypers Dreams, Kuypers How Do I Get There?, Kuypers Control-Collaps-Collaps, the DMJ Art Connection, Kuypers Questions in a World Without Answers, Kuypers 5th, Kuypers 92/90 Radio (2 CD set), Men's Favorite Year and the Second Aiding These Tracks, concert artist Strix Theory, Oh (audio CD), Life In the Cds (3 CD set), the DMJ Art Connection Indian Flux, the DMJ Art Connection Music Depression or Something, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #1, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #2, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #3, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #4, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #5, Classic Radio Classic Collection #01-05 (5 CD set) etc (audio CD, 2 CD set), Classic Elements (2 CD set), Chase in Motion (6 CD set), SD/SD Screaming to a Halt (EP), P&B/ Two for the Price of One (EP), K&K, Jada and Haystack An American Portrait, Kuypers/the Bestest You/Paul Baker/The Indiana Poetess Tris Fustin (4 CD set), and/or 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 H&Mans of South Africa Burn Through Me (2 CD set), Kuypers "40", Kuypers Section and Other Stories, Kuypers the Stories of Woman (amazon.com release), Kuypers "Debra VeCa" (4 CD set) Kuypers "hammer" (4 CD set), Kuypers "Lattin it Out", Kuypers "What We Need in Life" (CD single), Kuypers "Made any Difference" (CD single), Kuypers/Arbuckle "Across the Pond" (3 CD set).