



Bases Loaded

the 2015 Poetry Bomb

Janet Kuypers 4/26/15
poetry readings on the street
in front of the Wrigley Building

cc&d magazine chapbook ISBN# 1068-5154

scarsuoizaeziqqnd

entire town's baseball team

Janet Kuypers

4/25/15

I never played baseball
when I grew up,

didn't watch it on tv
when I was little.

But when my dad was young,
while his aunt had fifteen kids,

he and his cousins
were the entire town's baseball team.

Now dad is older,
he sits in his chair

and watches the Cubs
or the White Sox on tv.

And even though
I never saw him play

thinking of him and his cousins
being the entire town's baseball team

even give me
fond memories.

new to chicago (2015 baseball edition)

Janet Kuypers

1997 poem edited 4/26/15

I'm still new to this city
I know, I know, I've been here for years
but I haven't been to a Cubs game in years,
I haven't been to a White Sox game in even longer...
I haven't gone to the Sears Tower Observatory
since my Junior Prom

but when I walk by the First Chicago building
the beams along the north side
sloping up, parabolic pillars curving up to the sky

when I walk by the First Chicago building
I walk up along the side
and lean up against one of the sloping pillars
press my body against the cold concrete
feel the cold against my chin, my breasts, by thighs

and look up along the curve, stretching up towards the sky

you know, these pillars look like race tracks
and I could see something come rushing down that curve
a matchbox car, a race car
a marble, a bowling ball
a two-ton weight

I see the speed, the power, and it
almost makes me afraid to look up

and every time I walk by the First Chicago building
I do the same thing, I do this little ritual
and it feels like the first time

even got to first base

Janet Kuypers

4/25/15

I know what the bases mean
when it comes to intimacy —

First base, kissing.
Second base, groping through clothes.

Third base, skin on skin groping,
and a home run is going all the way.

I get it.
I underatand the metaphors.

But whenever
I've gone to a baseball game,

I was always going with friends,
and I don't get "intimate" with my friends.

So whenever
I've gone to a baseball game,

I never even got to first base.

one, two, three strikes you're out

Janet Kuypers

4/25/15

I really struck out with them...
I tried 3 times,
and yeah, it was 1, 2, 3 strike you're out,

but I was really hoping to at least
steal a base.
Maybe they're a switch hitter —

but if that's the case, are they
pitching or
catching? Though if I struck out,

it would probably be just my luck
that they'd be
playing for the other team.

That's what I get for trying to score
a home run
when I never checked out their stats.

Somebody's Scoring Somewhere

Janet Kuypers

4/24/15

I could walk into the bar “Sluggers”,
right across the street
from Chicago Cubs’ Wrigley Field...

I could walk into the bar
and talk to men there —
and if I said,

“If you work at it, I bet you could find
someone to really play ball with here.
Maybe you could swing that bat of yours

make it past first,
second and third base,
and you could score a home run.”

And if I said that to men
at a bar across the street
from an honored baseball field,

I’ll bet most of the men
wouldn’t be thinking of baseball at all.
Because that’s the way a man’s mind works:

everything can be reduced
to sexual conquests,
Get women too drunk to protest —

because if you get her
drunk enough, maybe
you can even score.

#

If you think I'm kidding,
know that a study was done
of college-aged men recently,

they all seemed to agree
that “rape” was wrong,
but at the same time

upwards of two thirds of the men
planned to get a woman
drunk enough

that they could sexually
force themselves upon her.
What a way to score, boys —

because to you it doesn't matter
how the women feel,
to you it only matters

who scores the most,
because in your mindset,
that's who wins the game.

Bases Loaded

Janet Kuypers

4/25/15

You men talk about bases,
but this is how the bases
are supposed to go...

First base: you go out for drinks
and you make out standing
outside your car for far too long.

Second base: having sex.
Anywhere and any time. Because,
I mean, a girl has needs too.

Third base: that's when
he spits out the words first.
"I love you." And you're caught

off guard, wait a minute,
you can't say "I love you"
back unless you think

you could spend the rest
of your life with them,
unless you could see yourself

marrying them. So you
mentally stop, think about this,
you can't make them wait

for over six seconds
like you're doing right now,
so quick, what's your choice.

That's when it becomes so easy
to look up at them
and say, "I love you too."

What's fourth base? (Yeah, I think
you know where this is going.)
That's when he takes you out to dinner,

the maître d' seats you
at the best table in the house,
and before the appetizers come

he gets down on one knee,
pulls out a ring that's far
too much diamond, and

asks for your hand in marriage.
Because boys, that's how we
see the bases, and *that's* how

you really hit a home run.

Bases Loaded

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Magazines:

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

Books:

Hops 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... 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Raments, 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 chapbooks 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, Post as Sociopath, Drawing, Art is not Meant to be Touché, the Beaten Path, a New Pen, Need to Know Basis (reduced 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 Sweetswater Upanishad, Harvest of Gems, the Little Monk, Death in Middleage, Moments/Moré, in the Palace of Creation, R.I.P., Bob the Bundle Boy, Remnants and Shadows, "Yes This, the Drive, Thomas at Tea, Creeping Down Windmill, The Other Bullet, anyone, In Your Heart the Apocalyptic's Treasures of God, the Adventure of the Key to Believing Bear, Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art (second printing), *Deardar Under / Charis Nowman*, 12 Times 12 Equals Grass, a Marble Nude Paulina Borbosa 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, Down Syndrome, the Dark Side of Love, the pill is a man's best friend, Angel's Syllable is Good Boss of Devil's Spin, 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, Gunther, Cats, Scream Cloud Island, When the World was Black and White, a Petal Under Pavement, The Holy Sea of CEE, Book 15 "Thailand to Volcanoes, Lost in an Echo, I Was Charles Bronson's Secret Hostage, Erosable Bond, Royal Dano's Death Scene "tis of Thee, Understood, Akshai Shotgun, Champagne - Hot Water, How a Bullet Behaves, the Thing in the Looong of WagonWheel (I Come in Avanti), Postcards from Exile, the Five Steps of Mabeth, Stay in Formation, Shadowing Other Footprints, the Girl Meets Door and Other Poems, Major Arcano, Give What You Can, Down in the Dirt 08A, 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, Fear the Forceman, Down In It, Falling Into Place, Wake Up and Smell the Flowers, Unknown, Looking Beyond, Forever Bound, See the World Burn, Exploding on the Scene, America the Lost, Moving the Earth, Catch Fire in the Treetops, Wisdom in Broken Hands, Autumn Anger, 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, Ideals, Friction, See Drift, Spiraling, and Then it Moved, a Creative Journey, a Rural Story, Beyond the Gates, Treading Water, the Curve of Arctic Air, The Sea, Idea

Compact Discs

Man's Favorite Place the Home tapes, Kuypers the Band (MP3 included), Winds and Flowers the beauty & the destruction, The Second Airing Something is Something, The Second Airing Live in Alaska, Pettis & Kuypers Live in Cafe Aloha, Painless Orchestra Bough Hives, Kuypers Soaring Things Differently, 50/50 Tick Tack, Kuypers Change Rearrange, Order from Chaos: The Grammy 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 Contain-Call-Cat-Cat, the DMU Art Connection: Kuypers Questions in a World Without Answers, Kuypers 5th, Kuypers 92/90 Radio (2 CD set), Man's Favorite Place and the Second Airing Three Tracks, recorded artist's Strike Theory, Oh (audio CD), Life in the Cds (3 CD set), the DMU Art Connection Indian Flux, the DMU Art Connection: Mass Depression or Something, Classic Radio Classic Radio Book #1, Classic Radio Classic Radio Book #2, Classic Radio Classic Radio Book #3, Classic Radio Classic Radio Book #4, Classic Radio Classic Radio Book #5, Classic Radio the Classic Collection #01-05 (5 CD set) etc. (audio CD, 2 CD set), Classic Elements (2 CD set), Chase in Motion (6 CD set), 50/50 Screaming to a Halt (EP), FR&L Two for the Price of One (EP), *AKA, Jaka and Haystack* An American Portrait, *Kuypers: the Bestest Time/Paul Baker/She Admire Paulers Trio* Fusion (4 CD set), *and/or* the Evolution of Performance Art (13 CD set), *Kuypers Live* (14 CD set), *the DMU Art Connection: the Things They Did to You* (2 CD set), *Kuypers Saying a Psychobit* (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 "Dro VeCu"* (4 CD set) *Kuypers "hammer"* (4 CD set), *Kuypers "Laying it Out"*, *Kuypers "What We Need in Life"* (CD single), *Kuypers "Made any Difference"* (CD single), *Kuypers/Revised "Across the Pond"* (3 CD set).