

Poetic Shades of Chocolate

Janet Kuypers 6/20/15
poetry show at Chicago's
Ten Shades of Chocolate

Under his Bed

Janet Kuypers
5/27/15

We hadn't dated that long,
we're not that close...

and

he brought me to his bedroom,
sat me down on his bed,
said he had something to show me.

My legs are now hanging
over the side of his bed
and he says,

"Hold on a minute"

and he gets on his knees.

And I'm thinking,
"What does he want to show me?"

But while he's on his knees
he reached under his bed.

I was sitting there, my legs
were dangling over the edge
and I couldn't see what he was doing —

until he got up off the floor
and placed the black objects on the bed.

"What is this?"
I ask.

"They're knee pads,"
he answered.

So he's brought me
to his bedroom,
I'm sitting on his bed,
and he's showing me knee pads.

There was no explanation,
he just brought me
to his bedroom
to show me knee pads.

So my mind goes into overdrive.
Why did he bring me in here
to show me these? I mean,
we're not that close,

we havent dated that long,
but is this something he needs
for some sort of sexual act?
Is he concerned about

my scrped knees if I'm getting
him off? My eyes were saucers,
and all I could ask was,
"What are these for?"

He started to grin.

"I just got roller blades,"
he answered,
which I hadn't seen
and didn't know.

But as I said,
we hadn't dated that long,
we're not that close,
so all I could think

when he brought me
to his bedroom
and showed me new gear
he kept under his bed,

all I thought
was that this was
the most bizarre way
to ask someone for the first time
for safe sex.

Fuming in the Morning

Janet Kuypers

5/11/15

When I wake up every morning,
unlike everyone else,
I rip the blankets off of me
because I'm boiling hot.

Been trying to figure out why.
When I wake up every
morning alone,
I wonder if my missing you

manifests itself
by leaving me tossing and turning
in my dreams,
until I wake up in a sweat.

These must be my red-hot thoughts
percolating up inside me
in the middle of the night,
leaving me fuming in the morning.

This is what I wonder.
Is this what being without you
makes me do.
I think I run to you all night long.

When I go to bed at night
after a day without you, I'm ice cold.
But my brain spends hours
throughout the night in my sleep

to think about us together.
To think about trying to find you.
To spend hours thinking about
what being without you means.

And I wake up,
like I do every morning,
after feeling like I've mentally
run a marathon,

and I go about my day, alone.
Life makes me cold again.
And I wonder what it takes
to get back to you again.

oxygen to flame the fire

Janet Kuypers

5/11/15

kept trying to describe him to my friends.
i mean, it was such a red-hot relationship,
sometimes our love would burn so bright
and sometimes it would seem like we're nothing.

because now i've figured him out and now
it all makes sense. he was a cigarette.
our time together was so short, and like those
nicotine sticks, it burned out too fast.

when he was getting me all hot and bothered,
i'd take a deep breath, suck in some oxygen
to flame this fire between us —
and her glowed with a red-hot intensity.

but whenever he got bored with me
he just made ashes of our relationship
and all that was left was a smoke trail,
and a smell i couldn't name in the air.

everyone was telling me he was no good.
but i didn't know better. i couldn't help it.
i was intoxicated — but now that he's gone
i wonder how much pain this affair has caused.

i wanted to be free. i tried many times.
but it was like he had this spell over me.
i was an addict. i just sucked him in,
adding fuel to the fire that was once our love.

PDQ in
tin Foil 2015 edit

Janet Kuyers
written w/5/06, edited 5/21/15

I'd say I wasn't pampered

but when I was in grade school
kids could buy
for their school lunches

either cartons of milk
or cartons of chocolate milk

and I didn't like milk,
and I love chocolate
so I always drank chocolate milk

but I told mom that the
chocolate milk from the school cartons
was granulated, it didn't taste right

so mom,
every day before school,
would put the chocolate

product PDQ
into a little pouch
wrapped in tin foil

so I could mix chocolate PDQ
in my regular milk

she did this,
so I could have chocolate milk
just the way I wanted

melted marshmallow 2015 edit

Janet Kuypers

written 5/5/12, more chocolate added 5/21/15

saw a short, larger woman today;
it kind of looked
like she was once squashed
by one of those cartoon anvils.
well, this woman walked by,
I watched her ankles,
they reminded me
of cascading rolls
of melted marshmallow —
thicker than Applebee's
dessert chocolate fountain,
i suddenly craved a roaring fire
and melted chocolate over smores.

grandmother charged
with murder 2015 edit

Janet Kuypers
written 3/3/12, edited 5/21/15

just heard that
a grandmother was charged
with murdering her granddaughter

you see, she caught
the 9 year old girl
eating chocolate

so to punish her
she made her carry
a bunch of firewood
in both arms
as she ran
back and forth
in her back yard

without even
giving her water,
her granddaughter
died of cardiac arrest
and dehydration

i'm sorry,
i don't study the masters
i just study the disasters*
as i eat
my dark chocolates
and observe

* "i don't study the masters i just study the disasters" is from Sid Yiddish

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2108893/Savannah-Hardin-death-Drill-instructor-hell-grandmother-faces-death-penalty.html> and

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/03/01/grandmother-to-face-capital-charge-in-girls-death/?test=latestnews>

Before Taking Over the Controls 2015 edit

Janet Kuypers
written 12/29/09, edited 5/21/15

Once I was flying to New Orleans
with a cute-as-a-button girl from Kentucky,
and she was a riot to hang around with,
but she was deathly afraid of flying.

and I knew her fear,
so for this flight, back before nine eleven,
I brought to the airport a 32 ounce cup
of hot chocolate and peppermint schnapps.
She said she was afraid,
so I told her to enjoy some drink.

I'm flown with friends afraid of heights,
I've flown to jump out of an airplane.
I was even trained and piloted an airplane...
I've flown to see the Aurora Borealis in Alaska,
but I've even seen the Aurora Borealis
from above, from my window,
over Greenland in the middle of the night.

It's amazing how flying
lets you see so much of the world,
but I have to admit,
it's an added bonus
when you can sip on hot chocolate
before you take off, to the sky.

Janet Kuypers is/has been/hasn't been in 10 Shades of Chocolate at Chicago's Let Them Eat Chocolate

Empty Chocolate Counter

Janet Kuypers
5/21/15

So when I was in high school,
my first job was at the Plush Horse ice cream parlour —
now, it's been around for years in the same historic building
with the same classic ice cream recipes...
And the added bonus
was that it was five blocks away from my house.

I used to save what change I could when I was little
and I'd ride my bike to the Plush Horse ice cream parlour
to get a scoop of their chocolate chocolate chip ice cream...

Once I got a job there,
I discovered they were still old-fashioned there —
only males were hired to scoop ice cream.
(You see, that's because us girls aren't strong enough
to wield an ice cream scooper for all those customers.)
But the ice cream parlour was under new management —
the brother of the owner of Dove chocolates
took it over, and I was hired
to work for their brand-new candy counter.
So now, unlike years past,
this ice cream parlour was no longer seasonal,
and I got to sell chocolates all winter long.

So, for the first time,
the historic Plush Horse
was selling chocolates
at their ice cream parlour
that was never open
in the dead of winter.

So, it's fair to say
that in the winter
it wasn't very busy.

So, I always had shifts
on dark winter nights,
selling chocolates to no one
along side the designated male
ice cream scooper.
And without customers
we'd screw around
or do our homework,
or listen to music
or read a book.

Now, I couldn't get away
with eating the individual chocolates for sale there,
they would keep track of their inventory,
but when it came to the ice cream,
they made it in the back room,
and that was harder to keep track of.
So, there'd be too many nights
where I'd get to make myself
a twenty-four ounce chocolate chocolate chip shake
(with added fudge, of course).

But one night,
it was probably on a Tuesday night in February,
I was sitting in a low chair behind my counter,
I had a paperback book in my left hand,
and my precious chocolate chocolate chip shake
(with added fudge, of course)
in my right hand.
I was leaning back with my shake in my hand
and before I got a chance to open my book
the side door opened, right in front of my counter.
I was expecting a customer
coming in for ice cream
at the other side of the store —
but I saw the owner,
the brother of mister Dove chocolates,
the brother of mister Dove Bar himself,
I saw the owner pushing open the door.

My brain went into instant panic mode.
So in one sweeping gesture
I stashed my book and my shake under the counter
and stood at attention,
hiding the chair behind my wide skirt.
The store was empty,
but like a good soldier I asked,
“Hello sir, how are you?”
(wondering if he would scream
that I wasn’t standing at attention
in the dead of winter
when there were no customers in the store),
and he just grumbled
(probably because he’s such a busy businessman),
he said that he was fine
while he walked to the back office.

Whew.
Just move the chair
and the chocolate chocolate chip shake
(with added fudge, of course) out of sight...

Another day at work with the boss,
when deliveries were dropped off,
I picked up a larger box to bring to the back
and the owner protested.
“Wait, those packages are heavy —
you couldn’t carry that.”
And I laughed, explaining that we carried
fifty pound salt blocks for our water softener,
that I’m fine.
I think maybe him seeing
that women can stand up for themselves
made it okay, in the heat of summer
when the lines are out the door for ice cream,
for me to leave the empty chocolate counter
and be the first girl there
to ever scoop ice cream with the big boys.

#

I always liked that chocolate chocolate chip shake
(with added fudge, of course),
and now I go back every few years
to try a scoop of chocolate chocolate chip ice cream.
The thing that made it so great
was that it also included small molasses chunks,
so there were extremely tiny candy treats
in almost every lick.

The last time or two
I've been to the Plush Horse ice cream parlour,
there were next to no molasses pieces in it.
I know there's a new owner again,
and I am afraid that cutting corners
means the classic recipes are forever lost.
So I'm afraid that now
I have one less place
to satiate my sweet tooth
and get my chocolate fix again.

Poetic Shades of Chocolate

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Children, Churches and Daddies (c&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., Ouvre, Exra 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, c&d #167.5 (Writing to Honour & Cherish, editor edition), Blister & Burn (the Kuypers edition), S&M, c&d #170.5 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 & v3), *Famly, Literature for the Sooty 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, Taking Poetry to the Streets, the Com-Pixie Ch'own Union, the Written Word, Deal, Prepare Her for This, Uncorrect, 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), Ennervated, the 2012 Databook, Prominent Tongue, Chaotic Elements, Fiction, Stability Stability Suck Suck Suck, a Picture's Worth 1,000 words (sold at book and ink-w art book), Life in Color, Post-Apocalyptic, Burn Through Me, Under the Sea (photo book), Partial World, Revealed, 100 Haikus, Give us the News, Let us See you Stripped, Part of my Pain, Raps Sexism Life & Death, Say Nothing, Twitterer, 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, Undoing 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, c&d Enriched Prose, Enriched with Dirt, An Open Book, Literary Town Hall (2 editions), Prominent Pen (2 editions), 100 Words, 1,000 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, Poet as Sociopath, Drawing, Art is not Meant to be Touched, the Broken Path, a New Pen, Need to Know Basis (reduced edition and extended edition), the "need to know" 2013 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 Woman, the Swan Road, the Significance of the Frontier, the Svetevaterova Unpublished, Harvest of Gems, the Little Moon, Death in Mileage, Moments Met, in the Palace of Creation, R.I.P., Bob the Bumble Bee, Remnants and Showdown, I Saw This, the Drive, Thomas at Sea, Carling Beer Intimately, Blue Collar Ballet, sugar, in Your Heart the Apostroph's: the story of God, the Adventures of the Key to Believing Bear, Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art (second printing), *Deckerd Kinde / Charly Nwando*, 12 Times 12 Equals Grass, a Marble Nude Pauline Boesche 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, Downs 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 Collar Book of the Dead, Cat People, Death of an Angel, Ghost, Science: A Carmudgeon's View, Ghost Dancers Leaping from a Tomb, the 4-D Window, Open Wounds, Anime Junkie, Interstio, Gunther, Cats, Screen Cold Island, When the World was Black and White, a Petal Under the Pavement, the Holy See of CEE, Book 15 - Thailand to Yokonome, Lost in an Echo, I Was Charles Bronson's Secret Hostage, Erasable Bond, Royal Dono's Death Scene 'tis of Thee, Understood, Akash: Shotgun, Champagne - Hot Water, How a Bullet Believes, Into the Lounge at WagonWheel (I Come in Anviler), Postcards from Exile, the Five Stages of Machelet, Stay in Formation, Showdown Other Footprints, the Girl Next Door and Other Poems, Major Arcana, Sine Poetis, Nullo ete Gloria, Short Takes, Seeing Strangers, Give What You Can, Down in the Dirt #84, 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 Life 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 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 exist, Home at Last, Inevitable Ink, a new era, Teals, Friction, and Then He Moved, a Creative Journey, a Rural Story, Beyond the Gates, Treading Water, the Curve of Arctic Air, Black Cat, Idea, a Bad Influence, a Mad Escape

Compact Discs

Mini's Favorite Vinyl the Home tapes, Kuypers the Ink (MP3 included), Woods and Flowers the beauty & the desolation, The Second Army Something is Something, The Second Army Live in Alaska, Pettis & Kuypers Live at Cafe Aloha, Painless Orchestra Bough Halls, Kuypers Songs Things Differently, 50/50 Tink, Kuypers Change Rearrange, Order From Chaos the Entropy Project, Kuypers Six One One, Kuypers Stop, Kuypers Musical Performances #2 CD, Kuypers Death Comes in Threes, Kuypers Changing Gears, Kuypers Dreams, Kuypers How Do I Get There?, Kuypers Contain-Callie-Curtain, the DMU Art Connection, Kuypers Questions in a World Without Answers, Kuypers 5/8, Kuypers N200 Radio (2 CD set), Mini's Favorite Vinyl and the Second Army Things Truly, concert artist String Theory, Oh (audio CD), Life in the C&D (CD set), the DMU Art Connection Indian Flux, the DMU Art Connection Music Depression or Something, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Radio Work #1, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Radio Work #2, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Radio Work #3, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Radio Work #4, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Radio Work #5, Chaotic Radio Chaotic Collection Collection #01-05 (5 CD set) etc. (audio CD, 2 CD set), Chaotic Elements (2 CD set), Chase in Motion (5 CD set), 50/50 Searching in a Hall (EP), FR&L Two for the Price of One (EP), K&K, Jaka and Haystack An American Portrait, Kuypers/the Bestest Site/Paul Baker/The Indiana Poetess 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 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 Hellman of South Africa Burn Through Me (2 CD set), Kuypers '02', Kuypers Sexism and Other Stories, Kuypers the Stories of Women (amazon.com release), Kuypers "Dibro VuCa" (4 CD set), Kuypers "hammer" (4 CD set), Kuypers "Letting It All Out", Kuypers "What We Need in Life" (CD single), Kuypers "Made my Difference" (CD single), Kuypers/Reidwick "Across the Pond" (3 CD set).