

Janet Kuypers' 3/21/17
short poem collection
for World Poetry Day
Tuesday March 21st
at Half Price Books

Short World Poems on World Poetry Day

cc&d supplement issue

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bio Chicago poet Janet Kuypers is a professional performance artist, a writer, photographer, and a professional literary magazine editor running **Scars Publications** (<http://scars.tv>), which published two literary magazines (*cc&d* and *Down in the Dirt*), publishes books and releases CDs. With over 90 books published (as of 03/17 of poetry, prose, novels and art), she has sung in 3 acoustic bands, and worked with 8 music groups (combining her poetry with music). From 2010-2016 she hosted a 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 her site at <http://www.janetkuypers.com> or <http://scars.tv>. Residing in Austin Texas since October 2015, Kuypers performs monthly poetry/music/performance art shows at Austin's the Bahá'í Faith Center, monthly book reading features at Half Price Books, and assorted individual poetry features at various additional Austin Texas locations.

<http://www.facebook.com/janetkuypers> <http://www.youtube.com/ccandd96>
<http://twitter.com/janetkuypers> <http://twitter.com/JKPoetryVine>

Every Street Corner

Janet Kuypers

3/20/17

Was only allowed to visit
certain public places
when I was in Russia.
But the one thing
I *did* notice
was the surprising number
of well-armed guards
at every street corner.

Our Lady of Mercy

Janet Kuypers

12/7/13

“Our Lady of Mercy” India Missionary
topped their building
with broken glass bottles
to scoop the kneecaps
or cut a man’s hands to lace

unclean left hands

Janet Kuypers

12/4/13

Don't use your left hand in India
(that's the hand used for wiping
after defecating(— for that reason
the people in India believe
the left hand's unclean. So,
while in India he washed his hands
after using the public bathroom,
saw others do the same.
But he saw one man
put soap on his right hand,
rub it with the back of his left hand,
then rinse his right hand.
His left palm never touched
his right hand, or soap, or water.
So I guess I see
they have more reasons to believe
the left hand's unclean.

Get His Product to Town

Janet Kuypers

5/12/12

A bakery owner
delivers loaves of his bread
on motorcycle.
He has a six foot wide
basket in back
of his motorcycle
(the basket as wide
as a Toyota Celica),
with bags,
six loaves each,
hang from the sides.
Because he'll use any way
to get his product to town.

Ever Consumed Goat

Janet Kuypers

5/12/12

The first time I ever
consumed goat was here,
and here, the law is
that you have to
keep the head,
and the fur on the head,
when selling this
freshly butchered meat,
so the customer knows
it's not
dog

Moros y Christianos

Janet Kuypers

5/12/12

They call it “Moros y Chrisitanos” in Ecuador,
it’s just “Moros” in the Dominican Republic.

“Moros y Chrisitanos” means

Moors

(the Muslims in Spain)

and

Christians.

Now, because they think of Christians as whites,

“Moros y Chrisitanos” means

Black Beans and Rice.

middle eastern man in front of me

Janet Kuypers

11/17/13

Waiting in line to buy coffee at the gas station,
the middle eastern man in front of me
was demanding his receipt
as the cashier held up an empty paper spool,
then added new paper to the register.
We could all hear the man
calling the cashier stupid and incompetent.
After he left and got into his minivan,
I saw his wife in a burqa waiting.
Then I heard the twenty-something cashier
mumble under his breath,
'I fought, so you'd have the freedom to come here.
I killed so many, and now I have to put up with this?'

Obama on the Subway

Janet Kuypers

2/8/12

Senator Obama
while working
would take the subway all day
and do all his work
off his Blackberry
so you couldn't corner him
in his office

Poverty in America

Janet Kuypers

5/23/12

A man competing
for American Ninja Warrior
said at one point
he was so poor
that he lived
out of his car.
Wow.
He had a car?
I guess it all depends
on what you call poor.

Flying to China

Janet Kuypers

7/13

I'll have to check airfares
to be sure,
but I think
that flying to China
for two weeks to drink there
may be cheaper
than drinking in Chicago
for two weeks.

Building Houses out of Pallets

Janet Kuypers

5/12/12

I've heard that in poor places
in South Africa
They build houses out of extra pieces
of scrap metal.
But here in the Dominican Republic,
I saw them
building houses out of pallets.
I thought for a second about
artist paint pallets,
and of course, I came back to
these large wood pallets
for hauling mass product from point A
to point B,
and all I could think was:
Hmmm. Houses made out of
pallets. Hmmm.

Everyone Has a Choice

Janet Kuypers

5/12/12

“I’m visiting
the third poorest nation,
I think,
but everyone
is just so happy
around here.
And this blew my mind,
so I had to ask a local
why everyone seems
so happy,
and they told me
that ‘here,
everyone has a choice.
You can either
choose to be happy,
or choose to be sad.
And we choose
to be happy.’
And you know,
I think they’re happy
because
they carry nine
hundred pounds of
I don’t give a...
Because here,
you might not
be able to *choose*
to wealth your way
out of this rut,
you can at least
choose to be happy.”

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