

SUSAN KAY ANDERSON

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At Radio Central

I can devise  
little sketches

of copper wires, tinfoil, glass plates, sheets of mica,  
metal, and wood.

*(one is about 1845 times as lazy as the other)*

Many of the actions  
in a larger game  
are complicated games.

*(such as are played in the atoms of copper)*

A fast game  
just as the earth and Mars  
and the other planets play  
right at the center.

*(most of sea water, therefore, is just water, that is, pure water)*

## ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

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“At Radio Central” was created from *Letters of a Radio-Engineer to His Son* by John Mills (1922). About the poem and the process of composing it, Susan Kay Anderson writes:

This poem is created from John Mills’ *Letters of a Radio-Engineer to His Son* (1922). The first letters are very emotional sounding (to me) and hint at an inner disturbance or trauma from war times (WWI) that John Mills would probably want to tell his son about but can’t. Instead, he writes down all he knows about radio technology. As I read these letters, I felt attracted to the dramatic conflict that seemed to be happening with what was being shared and what was being held back. It felt like a code I could break, but ultimately couldn’t. I couldn’t understand radio technology and couldn’t understand the trauma of war and separation. Yet, I felt close to the war while reading these and intensely concerned with “winning” or being able to succeed in understanding the science presented until my brain was being its own receiver/transmitter of waves and electrons. I selected words which spoke to me in a sort of coded language that sounded scientific but was very emotional.

Susan Kay Anderson is the author of *Mezzanine* (Finishing Line Press 2019) and *Please Plant This Book Coast to Coast* (Finishing Line Press 2021). Her work has appeared in *Wild Roof Journal*, *Sleet Magazine*, *Panoply*, *Trouvaille Review*, *Indolent Books—A River Sings*, and elsewhere. She is a poetry submissions reader for *Quarterly West* and *Lily Poetry Review*. She lives in Sutherlin, Oregon, and can be found online at [www.pw.org/directory/writers/susan\\_kay\\_anderson](http://www.pw.org/directory/writers/susan_kay_anderson).

HERON TREE  
20 April 2022  
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