

in a dream of a life



ABBODIES



nicky melville

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Sad Press

2nd edition

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10.0¹

¹ This poem is part-homage to Néstor Perlongher's *Corpses*, translated by Will Rowe, which has the refrain 'there are corpses.'

knowing me
I must have left
my house at 8
because I always do

I was sick and tired
of everything
when I called you last
night from Glasgow

thinking of Nigel Farage
in the thrush of the train
slow dancing
with himself
that Brex-tit
and 17 million others

in a country that works
for everyone
there is a body on the line

my train I'm certain
left the station
just when it was due
because there was no body
on the line

and the destination
makes it all worthwhile

Arrival

an ABBA album
from 1976

and a film
about alien visitors
40 years later
starring Amy Adams
takes my breath away
as Louise sees the future

coincidence?

beams are goanna blind me
but I won't feel
blue

every time I talk
to my mum and dad
there is a body on the line

so then the other night

I realised I couldn't do
the 'Bodies' poem
but maybe I could
put it together with my 'ABBA' poem
but I couldn't remember what it was called

the 'Corpses' homage was called
'there is a body on the line'
and
just next to it
in the folder
adjacently
as CB might say
was my 'ABBA' poem
'This is not about the Brexit'

next to each other
not bothered

this ABBA fixation of mine is weird

well it's not [it is]
but it seems
as if it means / they mean something else

to do with
relationships bodies on the line

the whole ABBA relationship thing
is a never ending
 well since last summer
fascination for me

they were married couples
but wrote lots of songs
'S.O.S.' in 75
 the year I was born
about breaking up
but didn't break up
and divorce till 82

'Waterloo'
Eurovision song
contest
Scandinavia
F(j)ordism

Brexit obvs

when I type 'obvs'
into my mobile phone

predictive text suggests invasion

IndyRef : the original
IndyRef 2 this time it's personal
Indy Ref 2
(spin-off)
: this time it's personnel

The Visitors

ABBA's last album

from 1981

title track's a belter

my mum and dad used to
play it in the car
when I was wee

2 years later

an American TV programme started

called *V*

starring Marc Singer

of *Beastmaster* fame

about an invasion

of aliens reptiles

disguised as humans

V is for visitors

coincidence?

I think not

I believe in angels

Jeff Ferrell MSW
 whatever the fuck
 that means
followed me on twitter

he's attempting
2 evolve in 2
the best [he] can be
fore leaving planet Earth

he followed me

F4F
follow for follow

did he find
out about
my poem's themes
from the interweb?

follow for follow

that!

co in ci dence?

I think not

#notnormal

and this today

junk mail

in my

inbox

that said

[Nickemelville, Alien camera is our newest high performance camera](#)

a hyperlink

that leads to

coral.globalcurrently.com/? etc

I didn't click on it

ain't no big decision

take it now or leave it

Yes!

I've been broken-hearted

blue
since the day we parted

and lots of other
lots of other lots
of other
lots of other
and

knowing me
knowing EU
there is nothing
we can do

it's funny
I only thought of that bit
after the first time I read this
poem in public

but it's too obvious
so I won't include it
in the new version

and I certainly
won't use it as a refrain

indeed
the judges will decide
the likes of me abide

I just typed that last line
in time
to the line in the song
just by chance
take a chance
chicka chicka chan chance

the game is on again
to help me through
reality

and
I have a new passport
now
an electronic one
with all my details
and face without glasses
a body on the line

I have contacts (crutches)
now
though am thinking
it might be more efficacious

to get laser eye surgery
so
I won't have to worry
about my eyesight
during the war
incarceration
torture
etc

though I'll be fucked
without insulin

I cannot move
I'm standing
numb and frozen
an enemy of the people
fucking cuts
among the things
I love so dearly
the books
the paintings
and the furniture
holds a body on the line

help me

(I wrote 'help me'
for a joke once
—but it wasn't—
on a bit paper
on an easel
then I went to bed
and that was
'fuck you like an animal'
a few days later)

and they don't care
to come here
any more now
a body is on the line

whatever happened
to our love
I wish
I understood

I remember the first time
I got an *Oor Wullie* annual for xmas
a Scottish xmas tradition

I must have been 6 or 7

on the cover it says
OOR WULLIE!
YOUR WULLIE!
A'BODY'S WULLIE!
'a' apostrophe
body
apostrophe 's'

horrified
I went up to my mum
and said

Mother I'm slightly discomfited
by one of my xmas presents
this annual seems to be
referring to *my* willy
because it says
'YOUR WULLIE'
i.e. *my* willy
 why did I ever
 let you go?
and the general willy
'A'BODY'S WULLIE'
the day before you came

V is for visitors

please can you explain these
possessive apostrophes?

how my parents laughed

it's a'body's Wullie
i.e. everybody's Wullie

proper Broons' moment!

& if you don't get that
joke
or other national
istic references
then you don't pass
the citizen test

Scottish jokes
for
Scottish folks

jokes for Jocks

so when you need me
darling can't you hear
me

S.O.S.
the love you gave me
nothing else can save me
S.O.S.

when you're gone
how can I even try to go on
when you're gone
though I try
how can I carry on

I can't go on
knowing me
knowing EU
ah! go on

in the video for 'S.O.S.'
there's a weird bit
when Agnetha's singing
the second verse

she's standing
 possibly numb and frozen
in front of some woods
or a copse of trees
which are out of focus

at 1:32
two men enter the frame
bottom left
 it's not Benny & Bjorn
and just stand there
for 5 seconds

when I saw some guy
begging on Waverley bridge
 I say some guy
 but his name was / is David
 a protection
that was in my class
in the jail
and seemed to have
aged 10 years
in one winter

there is a body on the line

under ground
in tunnels
on railway slats
beside WH Smith's
Tie Rack
and Subway

there is a body on the line

in the trash of a tube
that now
never stops
in the kiosks
by papers
there is a body
on the line
in the oyster

when the eyes of a Tory
open in the morning
there is a body on
Iain Duncan Smith

it's not so much how
does he sleep
but why should he wake up?
and Theresa May
Theresa may but will
put millions of bodies
on the line

they already have
fucking cu ts

and each time superfoods
are mentioned
are prepared
are harvested
are discovered

a body is on the line

mate!

you got any Gojis?
Skyr?

all war
is desire
for more cows

Tom Betteridge
tell me the truth

[I'm] enchained
by [my] own sorrow

in [my] eyes
there is no hope
for tomorrow

I just put that in there
 we can patch it up together
cause Tom said
his favourite ABBA song
is Chiquitita
 not chicken tikka
 as per Peter Kay
 what the fuck's he got to say?

Tom Betteridge
tell me the truth
 is out there

writing this made me
remember
that when I was wee
my dad used to tell me
he was actually an alien
and would remove his mask
when I was 18
and show me his spaceship
which he kept in the woods

I asked him about it
the other day

and he said he was making it up
obvs
as a bedtime story
before I went to
(hopefully)
sleep

what a weird thing
to tell your son

it explains a lot

when I sent a manuscript
alertstate.pdf
to my publisher
my publisher
sent it back
entitled
alienstate.pdf

coincidence?
I think not

is that true?
it's better
than I ever even knew

beetroot too
oysters man
from *Scotland*

fucking check shirts

this is no post-Brexit come down
on newcomers no
(under) attack
on hardworking (European) families
and individuals
who (come here to) do the right thing
with their bodies on the line

when lines of poetry
are catalectic
there is a body on the

each time I watch the Bake Off
to help me cope
with anything
the Great British
this or that
body is on the line

each time I'm the first to like this
a body is on the line

when I give a homeless
a note
ten pound once
or a fiver
twice now
and my friends say
did you just give a note?

there is a body on the line

every time I answer the house phone
even though
I gave no one
that number
a body is on the line

when the price of rice
when the spreadsheet s(p)ells wheat
when there's some hedge fun
for all the family

a body is on the line

on every track
from here
or there
to him fucked too
knowing me
knowing EU
 ah hah
this time we're through
a body on the line

there are two sandwiches in my pack
from Tesco

where many bodies
are on the

bacon lettuce tomato mayo
I give one to him
cause there's a body on the
line 'em up
hold 'em please

when Bill Gates drops
 slipping through my fingers
 all the time
a million

it's not worth
stooping so low
to retrieve
by the time he picks it up
he's doubled
fuckupled
the bodies on the line

I try to catch her
every minute

what happened
to the wonderful adventures
now a body is on the line

I think about my daughter
and son
and you
and think about
my mother
crying about
her daughter
listening to this song

loss of
con fi dence

since her heart attack

I can't say fuck all
I cry at adverts

wiping my tears
when I know it's wrong

there's a body on the line

but you see

somewhere deep
inside you
must know
I love you
r body is on the line

I don't want
to talk
if it makes you feel
~~bad~~
~~sad~~
about things
we've gone through

you were in my arms
a body on the line

standing at our table
spread eagle led
looking at these words
writing them
while listening to ABBA
was / is a soundtrack
I you tried to reach for me
but ~~you~~ I have lost my mind

it's actually closed
my ~~your~~ mind

you I make me feel alive
but something
died I ~~you~~ fear
you seem so far away
though you were
standing near
a body on the line

I have been waiting
for these visitors

follow for follow

when I know
the time
is right
for me
I'll cross the stream

Ghostbusters reference is forthcoming
don't cross the streams

help me

V is for visitors

for example
what the fuck is 'Eagle' all about?

they came flying from far away
now I'm under their spell
I love hearing the stories
that they tell
they've seen places
beyond my land
and they found new horizons
they speak strangely

but I
understand

doesn't seem to be
about a bird of prey

but birds come
(evolved)
from reptiles
don't they?

look at a gannet

the talons
of a raptor

scaly
very scaly

according to *I'm A Celebrity:*
Get me out of here! 2016
52% of British adults
believe
there is extra-terrestrial life

Carol Vorderman said
I think if there is
anything
we don't know the signs

ah hah!

ah ha ha

Signs
a reference
to the film
by M. Night Shyamalan
 starring anti-Semite
 Mel Gibson
 and Joaquin Phoenix
about aliens who come here
that we repel with water

cliché!

building me a fence
building them a wall
building me a home
thinking I'd be strong there
is a body on the line

crackin up
crackin up

I thought it was

breakin up
breakin up

breaking up is never easy
I know
but this time we're through

breaking her way
making her May
pushing through
unknown jungles
everyday
there is a body on the line

and with no trace
of hesitation
she keeps
falling
pushing
head over heels

not knowing me
not knowing EU

she's extreme
if you know what I mean

and Trump is
master of the scene

can't resist the strange attraction
from that giant dynamo

look into his angel eyes
one look
and you're hypnotised

don't look too
deep in to

one day you'll find
out he wears a disguise

a'body's on the line

when I first started
this poem

I wrote

this seems like
a suicide note
but it's not
but I didn't include it

[though I did now
in the fourth incarnation]

now
I'm not
so sure

so
sure

Saussure

So I said to the kids
just after we left *Ghostbusters* reboot
[they crossed the streams]
when I saw a Deliveroo deliverer
in the street
a body on the line

that they should get
a box
with a buzzard
in it

[chef got a box
perhaps
a chicken's
in it – Ivor Cutler[t]] [LOL!]

I always point out
these common birds of prey
often buzzard!
in the middle of a sentence
then continue

knowing me
knowing EU

that's what you should do
for my funeral

I want a buzzard
at my funeral

can I/you hire one?

when Pierce Brosnan's
voice breaks
my heart

Mamma Mia!

WTF
is going on?

#notnormal

nick-e [nicky] sees the future

there are moments
when I think
am goin crazy

am crackin up
not breakin up

but it's [not] goanna be
alright

in the background Frida sings
we'll soon be changing
everything

this is in 'Super Trouper'
(storm and starship
spring to mind)

'The Visitors'
'The Day Before You Came'
Arrival
'Eagle'

in America
buzzard means vulture
with a body on the line

vultures are pretty
reptilian
aren't they?

I really tried
to make it ~~up~~
~~work out~~

Dancing to this at Studio 54, WOW
what great nights
plenty bodies on the line
I wish I was still there!!!!

when all is said and (not) done

in the autobio

graphy biopic

or at least

as a little story

at my funeral

the following scene should be included:

buzzard!

A group of people in white costumes, some holding signs, against a yellow background. The costumes appear to be simple white jumpsuits or jumpsuits with various accessories. One person in the foreground is holding a sign that says "A'BODY'S". Another person in the background is holding a sign that says "I'M A SCOT". The background is a solid yellow color. There is a red banner at the bottom of the image with the text "A'BODY'S" in white. The text "sad press" is visible at the bottom center of the image.

'the most singular state-of-the-nation poem you're likely to read this year'
The Scotsman

A'BODY'S

sad press