ABBODIES

10.0

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

dthis 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!

coiidence?
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 cunts
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
ahl 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’am] 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

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
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
confidence
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
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 Cutlet
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’BODY’S

sad press