

Mortification of the flesh

Behold the body as a dartboard / prick-marked / sans bullseye / no triple word score / do not pass go / do not collect £200 /

-as trick or treat / the night after Halloween / deserted streets / unwanted sweets scraping / the bottom of the barrel / no one answers the door / when I call /

-as haunted house / stale popcorn / lonely ghosts scream from within / scaring myself silly / with this sack of bones / dangling from the scaffold / this unlucky horror show /

-as piñata / beating myself up again / for the temporary release / of sugar on the tongue / a short burst of excitement / a violently deflated balloon /

-as inter-library loan / lost in the stacks / stuck on the shelf / shuttling back and forth / waiting for sticky hands to hold me /

-as abandoned vehicle / the burnt-out wreckage of a road traffic accident /

-as supermarket trolley / full to bursting / with BOGOF offers / with best before date / with put it back where you found it / with declined credit card

-as radio-active half-life / as interest-only mortgage / as redemption / as resurrection / as a Hallmark greetings card /

The body as a bag for life / the body as tormenter and saviour / the body as corpse flower / as crime scene / as telephone hotline / the body as mine / behold my body as *my* body