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Under the Skin

By Walter Campbell

[FEMALE VOICE PRONOUNCING LETTERS]

T... D...

S... Z... Th...

B... T... V...

H... T... D... K... G...

S... Z... P... B...

Ba-Ba... T... T...

K... Kuh... Ch...

Th... V... Th...

Zzz... Sss... Bzz... Ch...

B- B-Buh... V-V-Vuh...

G- G-Guh... D-D-Duh...

B- B-Buh... B-B-Buh...

B- B-Beh... B-B-Beh... Bah...

N- N-Nuh... N-N-Nuh...

N- N-Nuh... No.

N- N-Nuh... N-N-Nuh...

N- N-Nuh... No.

N- N-Nuh...

F... Feel... Field...

Fill... Filled... Filts...

Foil... Failed... Fell...

Felds... Pill... Pills...

Pall... Nall...

Foal... Foals...

Fold... Fold...

Pool...

Sell... Se...

[DOORS CLOSING]

[MOTORCYCLE ENGINE STARTS]

[VAN ENGINE STARTS]

[WOMEN CHATTERING]

[CHATTERING CONTINUES]

[CHATTERING, SHOUTING]

[CHATTERING, SHOUTING CONTINUES]

[HORN HONKS]

I'm looking for the M8.

Eh...

[CHUCKLES]

Aye, you've gotta go straight
along that way and...

This is gonna be pure hard to explain.

- Do you know where the Asda is?

- No.

Yeah, I don't even know what way you're pointin'. What?

- See, if you just drive straight along up there... - Yes? And see the traffic lights up there? Take a right. Then you'll go past Ibrox Stadium, right? And go straight through a roundabout. Then take a left. So it's right, then just... And it's there. The motorway is there. It's back of Asda. You'll see it.

- Back of Asda, see?

- Okay.

- Am I keeping you from something?

- [CHUCKLES] No.

- Where are you going?

- Along here.

- For what? For work?

- No, I need to go meet somebody.

- Oh, you're going to meet someone.

- Aye.

All right.

Thank you. Sure.

[SIREN WAILING]

[WOMAN]

I'm looking for a post office.

[MAN] Post office?

Yes.

Where are you from?

Where I am from?

Yeah.

Albania.

Oh, are you?

You have family here?

Yes.

Oh, you do.

That's the reason I'm saying you have to go another way... for another...

It's after the shopping ce...

Hi.

Lost?
Yeah, lost.
What are you looking for?
I'm looking for the M8.
Up to the roundabout...
Are you walking?
Yep.
- Where are you walking to?
- Home.
Oh, you're going home. To your family?
No, no, just myself.
Just yourself?
Aye. It's great.
Yeah? How?
I can do whatever I like.
So where are you coming from?
Govan. Right there.
Sorry?
Govan.
Govan? Do you work there?
No, no.
Don't work there.
I work for myself.
Do you want a lift?
Eh... Aye, why not?
You'll have to tell me how to get there.
Just follow this road straight up.
Okay.
Sure.
[ENGINE STARTS]
So what do you do?
Electrician.
Oh, you're an electrician.
[GROANS]
It's cold, right?
Ah, it's a wee bit nippy, aye.
Yeah.
So what is it youse all doing?
I'm...
I'm just, uh, driving...
just, uh... some furniture
for my family and...
Oh, right?
Yeah.

So you live alone?

Yes.

And you love it?

Aye. It's great.

What do you love about living alone?

- Nobody to nag you.

- Do I go straight through?

Yeah, just straight through.

Straight through the whole way.

[CHATTERING]

It should be just cart around that street and stay in the right hand lane.

What's that?

That's a tattoo of my name.

Of your name?

Yeah.

What's your name?

Andy.

Andy. Hi.

Pleased to meet you.

- Nice to meet you too.

- Thank you very much.

[WOMAN SHOUTS]

Andy!

Want me?

[MAN] You coming?

[ANDY CHATTERING, INDISTINCT, FADES]

The spot back here, you get... you put your hand out. Anybody can stop.

There's lonely old guys.

Know what I mean?

It was... Hey, might as well check her out, driving away in a big van.

- Sure you can drive this, huh?

Huh? - [LAUGHS]

- No girlfriend? Really?

- Nah, I don't have a girlfriend at all.

You're very charming.

That's better.

Yeah? Sorted?

You have a handsome face.

Aye?

Yeah.

Thanks a lot. Cheers.

- Do you think I'm pretty?
- I think you're gorgeous.
- Do you?
- Aye, definitely.

Good.

And a friendly smile as well.

- Do I?
- Aye, right deep.
- What about your smile?
- Aye.

You've a nice smile yourself.

- Cheers.
- Good.

Good.

[CHATTERING, WHOOPING]

[**SPEAKERS:**

[FADES]

No, no, no, lads! No!

[CHATTERING CONTINUES]

[BABY] Mommy!

Whoo!

I thought...

you had your eye on my towel.

No. I wanted

to speak to you.

Do you know if there's any good
spots to surf around here?

I'm not a surfer.

Just living in a little tent over there.

Just hanging around.

Yeah?

Reading, swimming. You're not from here?

Where are you from?

I'm from Czech Republic.

Why are you in Scotland?

I just... wanted to
get away from it all.

Yeah?

Why here?

Because it's...

[LAUGHS]

It's nowhere.

[SHOUTING, LAUGHING]

[SHOUTING]
[SHOUTING]
[SCREAMS]
[SHOUTING]
[BABY SCREAMING, CRYING]
[CRYING CONTINUES]
[MOTORCYCLE ENGINE IDLING]
[ENGINE CONTINUES IDLING]
[BABY CONTINUES SCREAMING, CRYING]
[BABY SCREAMING, COUGHING, FAINT]
[SCREAMING, COUGHING CONTINUE]
[CAR ENGINE RACING]
[SHOUTING, INDISTINCT]
[SPEAKING, MUFFLED]
[OTHERS SHOUTING, MUFFLED]
[AIRPLANE PASSING]
[WOMEN CHATTERING, LAUGHING]
[CHATTERING CONTINUES]

[**SPEAKERS:**

[CONTINUES, MUFFLED]

Whoa!

Whoa, whoa. Excuse me.

Can I talk to you before
you run away, darling?

I wanted to speak to you earlier,
right, but you disappeared.

I thought you went to the
ladies' or somethin'.

Anyway, right, fuck all that shite.

Right?

I really want to buy you a drink, man.

You look absolutely stunning.

And I...

You know what? I'm all alone.

You're all alone.

What do you say?

What's one drink?

What's one drink?

I saw you on the road.

What, you saw me on the road?

Earlier, yeah.

Are you having a laugh with me?

You saw me? You wanna come

get a drink and a dance?

Are you alone here?

Yeah, I'm all alone. Right?

[CONTINUES, LOUD]

[TAP ON WINDOW]

The man from the car, he

buy the rose for you.

[WOMAN ON RADIO] A man's body has
been found washed up on a beach...
near Arbroath.

His wife and child are reported missing.

The police say the body

has been identified...

as 36-year-old Kenneth

McClelland from Edinburgh.

The body was found by a tourist...

and is believed to have been

in the water for some time.

Mr. McClelland was married and worked as a
chemistry lecturer at Edinburgh University.

The alarm was raised when he failed
to turn up for work this morning.

His car was found at

the nearby Deer Park Golf Club.

His wife, 32-year-old Alison

McClelland, and 18-month-old son...

are believed to have been with him.

A police and coast guard search
operation involving a helicopter...

has been halted due to fog.

The next bulletin is on the hour.

[NEWS THEME]

[MAN] Well, plenty to talk
about, as ever, with Kay.

You can call now...

10-500-92-95-00.

You can text as well...

It's 8:

[WOMAN #2] Good morning, Gary.

Well, as we've heard, for a whole host of reasons...

[MEN CHATTERING, LAUGHING]

2014 is a very important year for Scotland.

Of course, the referendum.

We're expecting that date today.

But the Commonwealth Games
and Ryder Cup...

You seem very excited about that.

I am.

He's jumping out of his seat at the
prospect of the year he's gonna have...

[MAN ON RADIO, INDISTINCT]

Fuckin' hell, you're gorgeous.

- You think so?

- It's your eyes.

Somethin' about your eyes.

Your eyes, your lips.

That black hair.

Yeah?

You just look...

amazing.

[VOICES ARGUING ON RADIO]

[MAN]

Hey, you okay?

[MAN SPEAKS, MUFFLED]

[MEN SPEAKING, MUFFLED]

[MAN] Want a hand up?

Want a hand?

[INDISTINCT]

[CHATTERING]

[CHATTERING]

[NO AUDIBLE DIALOGUE]

[TRAIN PASSING]

[MEN SHOUTING]

Get out, eh? Get out!

[SHOUTING CONTINUES]

[ENGINE IDLING]

Excuse me.

Excuse me.

Uh, I'm a bit lost, really.

Am I headed towards Taynuilt?

Yeah.

I am? Is it far?

It's about 10 minutes away.

Ten minutes? Are you...

Are you headed there?

I'm going to the supermarket.

Is it on the way?

Yeah.

I could drop you off if you'd like.

Yeah?

Here. Let me
turn this up for you.

That's better.

You're very quiet.

So why do you shop at night then?

People wind me up.

How?

They're ignorant.

What about your friends?

So you don't have any friends?

No.

How about a girlfriend?

How old are you?

I'm 26.

When was the last time
you had a girlfriend?

Never had one.

So don't you get lonely then?

You've very nice hands.

You've beautiful hands.

Do you want to look at me?

This isn't Tesco's, is it?

No.

I noticed you looking at me before.

And?

I liked it.

You're uncomfortable.

No. Just want

to go to Tesco's.

So you never think about it then?

Think about what?

Being with a girl.

When was the last time you touched someone?

Let me see your hands.

Cold.

I have to get back soon.

How was that?

Cold.

Do you want to do it again?

Yeah.

Do you want to touch my neck?

Here.

How was that?

Yeah.

Your hands are very soft.

I have a place about 30 minutes away.

Will you come with me there?

[ENGINE ACCELERATES]

[CLOTHES RUSTLING]

[MAN]

Cold.

[WOMAN]

I won't let that stop us.

Come to me.

Dreaming?

Yes.

Dreaming?

Yes, we are.

[RAGGED BREATHING]

[FOOTSTEPS]

[INSECT BUZZING]

[BUZZING CONTINUES]

[LOCK CLICKING]

[CAR DOOR OPENS]

[MOTORCYCLE, DISTANT]

[CAR DOOR SHUTS]

[ENGINE STARTS]

[ENGINE STOPS]

[MAN SINGING, DISTANT]

[CONTINUES]

[CONTINUES, CLOSER]

[FOOTSTEPS]

[BIRD SQUAWKS]

[WINGS FLUTTERING]

[CHATTERING]

[CHATTERING CONTINUES]

[CHATTERING STOPS]

[CHATTERING RESUMES]

The bus will be along in a minute.

Do you not think you should be wearing a jacket, little lass?

The weather's terrible up here.

You'll catch your death of cold if you've not got a jacket or a hat or something on. You've not got the right clothes on at all.

You all right there?

Eh?

You okay?

Can I do something for you?

Chase yourself, dafty.

Leave the lassie alone.

She doesn't want anything to do with you.

Do you need any help?

Yes.

Right.

[MAN SHOUTS, INDISTINCT]

[CHATTERING]

Let me just take your coat.

[AUDIENCE LAUGHING ON TV]

[TAPS JAR]

Spoon, Jar.

Jar, spoon.

Spoon, Jar. Jar... Wonder whether
that's working, don't you?

[LAUGHS] Spoon, Jar.

Jar, spoon.

Spoon, Jar.

Jar, spoon.

Spoon, Jar. Spoon, Jar.

Jar, spoon.

[SPOON RATTLES IN JAR]

[VOCALIZING, MARCH]

[SPOON RATTLES IN JAR]

Stop!

[VOCALIZING, MARCH]

[SPOON RATTLES IN JAR]

Stop!

[VOCALIZING, MARCH]

Pull it. Pull it.

[LAUGHTER]

[APPLAUSE]

[RADIO STATIC, FREQUENCIES CHANGING]

Now I've stood on your shadow

And I've watched it grow

And it's shaken and it's driven me

And let me know Let me know

Let me know Let me know about

all the old forty-fives

And the paperback rooms

And it's scattered
all the photographs
Of summers and suns
And you're a real gone kid
And maybe now, baby Maybe now, baby
Maybe now, baby Maybe now, baby
And maybe now, baby
Maybe now, baby
I'll do what I should have di
'Cause you're a real
Gone...
Night.
[ENGINES IDLING]
[ENGINE STARTS]
[HORSES TROTTING]
You all right?
If you're frightened, let's go.
Come on.
It's all right.
That's it.
[WIND WHISTLING]
It's okay.
It's okay.
It's okay.
It's okay.
All right.
Okay.
You did it.
[MOTORCYCLE REVVING]
You all right?
[BRANCH SNAPS]
You just off for a ramble
in the woods then? Eh?
Huh? You just off for a ramble
in the woods? Yeah, yeah?
Oh, it's, uh... Watch how you step here.
It's a bit, uh...
It's a bit slippery round here,
but... this time of year.
It's all right in summer. Well, it's still
wet in summer, but not as bad as it is now.
But there's plenty of trails around here.
Have you been here before?
No? First time? Yeah?

Oh, you won't get lost.
They're all clearly marked.
But, uh, there's about
2,000 acres of forest here,
so you shouldn't... you should have,
uh, plenty of places to go in there.
You on your own?

Yeah.

Yeah, on your own? Oh, well, it's a
nice place if you want some solitude,
you know, to "gather your
thoughts" and all that, yeah?

So, uh, enjoy yourself anyway, okay?

Thank you.

[RAINDROPS PATTERNING]

[BRANCH SNAPS]

[HORN HONKING]

[GRUNTS]

[GASPS]

[GASPS]

[UNZIPPING JACKET]

[WHIMPERING]

[RIPPING]