

Between Clean Sheets

Twenga #8

31 December 2017 – 3 March 2018

#twenga is an annual renga  
of 100 Verses on Twitter

Sabaki – Gavin Wade  
Host Poet – Paul Conneally.

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Emma Bolland @emmazbolland  
Mathew Parkin @mathewparkin  
Paul Conneally @LittleOnion  
Yvette Gresle @yvettegresle  
Gavin Wade @epjrjts  
Patrick Goodall @artpickdarkpot  
Sid Sidowski @sidowski  
Tina Francis @tinafrancis15  
Brenda Hickin @brenda\_hickin

#1

first footing  
a hot drink and a mince pie  
to see in the year

#2

a circle of plant pots  
haloed by thawing snow

#3

days off and on  
till the moon falls in line  
with the calendar

#4

cold down pressure  
back from daylight saving

#5

in crystal peaks  
Tom whispers a familiar joke  
in his husband's ear

#6

delicate raku pots  
pulled from the embers

#7

the swirl and swoop  
of late evening bats  
over Lake Wannsee

#8

high tea taken on  
the low veranda

#9

before the bridge  
at Stratford be sure  
to remove your stove pipe

#10

grinding to the skatepark  
on Chelmsley Wood

#11

a line of patients  
on stretchers and wheelchairs  
outside A&E

#12

roles reverse as she rescues  
her mam's dropped stitches

#13

crying on the stairs  
she sits with me and says  
let's have five minutes

#14

absorbed in each other  
we form a looping meniscus

#15

buds come back  
you don't expect it  
but they do

#16

trip you up in blue bell  
patches of sunlight

#17

Alexander holds up  
the weirdest looking kite  
Mabel has ever seen

#18

eternal footprints  
in pristine moon dust

#19

faces lit  
by bottle rockets  
and Catherine wheels

#20

the Empress dreams  
of an October revolution

#21

for years they talk  
this and that  
until one moves up

#22

in the dog days dogs  
nodding in the dust haze

#23

Abu Wad's roses  
bloom in the rubble  
of Aleppo

#24

x stitch more radical  
than socialist worker

#25

without reserve  
bravely we fight against  
all backwardness

#26

the compass in the heel  
of his first lace ups

#27

a song rings out  
from deep in the hawthorns  
a fallen blossom

#28

the meteorologists  
plan a spring wedding

#29

his daughter asks  
where the bunny comes  
in the Easter story

#30

dwarfed by the  
ovum's corona

#31

her busy thumbs  
emoticon love  
on the Waterloo train

#32

a car park corner  
one shoe left behind

#33

hurling insults  
at the presidential  
press conference

#34

kayaking solo  
fighting the raging current

#35

a hedgehog  
ready for hibernation  
walks the back border

#36

ochre moons  
pressed into clay

#37

bitter fruit  
stains the gin magenta  
curls my tongue

#38

his wild drag  
stuffed in a rucksack

#39

the whole family  
piled on the sofa  
in post lunch rapture

#40

her foodbank donation  
weighs heavily on her

#41

lamentations  
are also songs  
voices lost

#42

will action be taken  
in the wake of Grenfell

#43

maybe we can trust  
the blockchain  
as it kicks into gear

#44

we search in vain  
for a public toilet

#45

repeatedly  
slashing the canvas  
Lucio vents his spleen

#46

feasting parasites  
outside and in

#47

archipelagos  
off the coast  
of Mozambique

#48

bandits in the hills  
not far from Guernica

#49

writhing on the floor  
howling and desperate  
for quick fix cat sex

#50

take me to the Limit  
one last time

#51

Tina's love letter  
breaks the rules  
in writing class

#52

at Sunday School  
a non-believer daydreams

#53

our skeletons show  
a symmetry  
so often denied

#54

moons cluster  
around your neck

#55

after torrential rain  
wandering stars  
pause on pavements

#56

head torch trails  
my Autumn morning runs

#57

where goats fear to tread  
vertigo strikes above  
the inviting Greek surf

#58

paterfamilias  
lost lines folding over

#59

between clean sheets  
we two boys together  
clinging

#60

soft catkins  
are hawthorn too soon

#61

even the old  
feel the sap rising  
with the day length

#62

greens in a pan  
with ash and ember and fat

#63

a suitcase of lemons  
a parting sharpness  
smoke in our trail

#64

that face you pull  
that says I'm sorry

#65

drunk on moon rays  
dysphoric octopuses  
dream of the city

#66

conkers cascade  
onto infertile tarmac

#67

in the puddle  
a skein of geese  
is heading south

#68

alliance not defiance  
painted on a banner

#69

the staff meeting  
about the upcoming  
women's strike

#70

sweat and dust map  
the pitcher's forehead

#71

eyes back and forth  
nose up and down  
breathing sweet box

#72

Lucy's lungs relax  
after the initial chill

#73

Zephyrus leaves Thrace  
to warm Hyacinth  
by the West wind

#74

cast off figureheads  
on museum walls

#75

she sends me  
a pair of long socks  
and tells me to visit

#76

your travel  
is covert colonialism

#77

sharing a Fluitje  
in traffic watching  
the sirens pass

#78

the sex museum  
is closed for repairs

#79

our love, not archived  
as acts and artefacts  
but fluid, live

#80

nice people  
look the other way

#81

carillion calls  
for help for help  
the wolves the sheep

#82

standing in the snow  
singing bloody hymns

#83

steam rising  
in the vestry a kettle  
to defrost the font

#84

text me  
when you get home

#85

pages of passion  
he speaks with the rhythm  
of Wolverhampton

#86

graffiti blooms  
hunting pike down the cut

#87

en passant  
chess and chorizo  
in the olive tree's shade

#88

public private partnerships  
asset stripping schools

#89

doodling furiously  
super heroes appear  
during chemistry

#90

silver strands  
caught in a hairbrush

#91

half-remembered  
a bowl of persimmons  
by the window

#92

moonrise, Puerto Rico  
1995

#93

the rice planters sing  
of earth wind and fire  
the birth of art

#94

they search for a code  
to unlock the response

#95

a four colour  
cherry blossom tattoo  
to cover his name

#96

young hummingbirds  
hone their skills

#97

angling the jib  
to mark the equinox  
Tony parks the crane

#98

rough sleepers waiting  
for something to change

#99

everyone knows  
there's nothing better than  
clean fresh underwear

#100

lemon, cucumber, tonic  
and evergreen pleats