

Buried Bodies

She carries their buried bodies with her
a couple in her purse snapped shut
another in the right rear pocket of her jeans
several more scattered through her feathered hair

There's a body buried in every ring on every finger
more wrapped around the bracelets on her wrists
a thin gold anklet coffins another brace of lovers
while one more lies linked in silver round her waist
come close enough and she'll show you

Her lips have buried more men than she has yet kissed
her eyes more men than can be kissed or killed
and any men her lips and eyes might have missed
lie buried beneath the red lacquer on her toes

Her own body is buried in the bodies she has buried
but which she wears so well

BRIAN BURKE