

**In Newfoundland the Pillows are Very Heavy**

In Newfoundland the pillows are very heavy.  
You sit in rented cabins  
fog frozen in the summer thaw  
holed up in musky rooms  
with walls fashioned from a million wood chips,  
varnished and level-perfect.

There in Rocky Harbour  
just two doors from the Mounties  
and around the corner from the discount store  
that sells shoes too big or too small for most of us  
you wonder how men came to create such godawful heavy pillows.

The weight is tremendous,  
the stuffing, stone feathers  
or the hairs from the edge of night time  
or the fear of drowning Englishmen on  
a godforsaken coast  
or some other unknown quantity that  
lurks on the rim of continents  
and suitable support  
for the heads of nervous tourists.

*Lesley Choyce*