

BIRTH OF A LEGEND

OR

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON SUNDAY MORNING

By DOUGLAS LOCHHEAD

Who came ashore last night in the dark?
Who came ashore in the lee of the light?

Where was it happened?
Who was to see?
Oh, they said there were women
and men in hip-boots
shouting and scrambling
on the black slippery rocks.

But where was it happened?
Give me time will ye woman,
Let me say what they tell.
There were grey boats at anchor
and dories come in
then out dashed these figures
where the land drops right deep
but they slipped ashore
by Macdonald's, its said.

But who was it saw this?
And what were their names?
Where did they go?

They hit for the woods
through the grass and the night
dragging their bones and letting
strange cries.

Oh they say it was awful
the cries they let forth
like no gull on earth
like no human voice.

But who? It was Fraser
and Willie wandering home,
Willie with fiddle and Fraser
quite drunk but playing
the pipes like you've never heard.
You'll never believe it
but they're swearing today
that something right awful
come out of the bay.