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