

New collaboration by **John Burnside & Will Maclean**

# A Catechism of the Laws of Storms



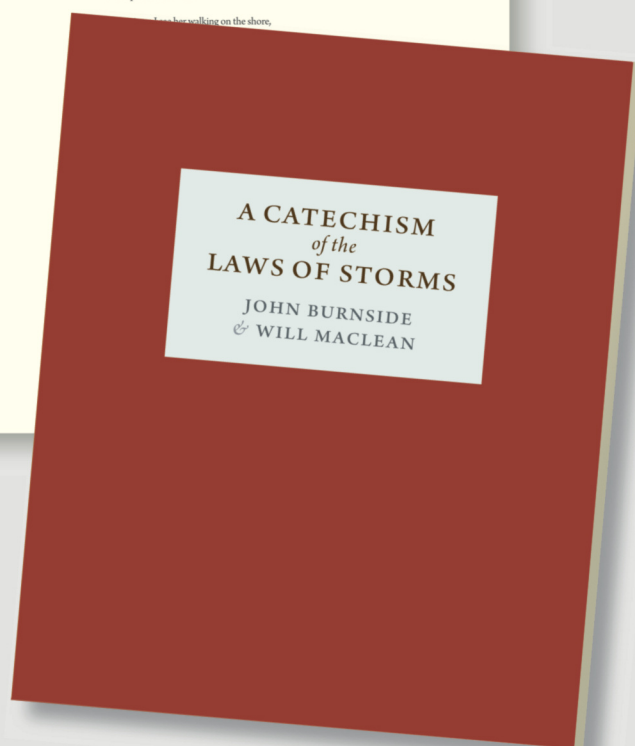
## Apparition of the Re-Drowned

Now our sister, who died at birth,  
has grown into a pretty  
spinster in the local afterlife.

Winsome and self-contained, (she'll never marry)  
she lives day-to-day in the seasons,  
wraithlike at Halloween, no need or wish

for anyone at all when she appears  
on Midsummer evenings, beribboned  
and ripe for the dance.

... her walking on the shore,



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John Burnside's poetry and Will Maclean's imagery first came together in a collaborative print-poem commissioned for the opening of Dundee Contemporary Arts in 1999. *A Catechism of the Laws of Storms* continues the joint projects.

Some years ago Maclean found some dis-bound copies of an illustrated weekly newspaper *The Pictorial World* of 1882–83 and used the woodcut images to assemble a series of collages, which were then scanned and digitally altered.

The series of collages related to descriptions of storms and hurricanes from nautical books and manuals in Maclean's collection, in particular *The Law of Storms* by Henry Paddington. The collages were shown to Burnside who composed a series of twelve poems in response to the images. Maclean in turn altered a number of the images in response to the poems.

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