



BREAD

*Michael MacDonald*

Old Habits  
at the coffee shop

Had he been Clark Gable smooth  
or Charlie Chaplin comical  
it might not have been so bad  
at least that way it would have seemed  
a movie-the leads, the customers as extras,  
the background music, lights, and all

But since his flannel shirt  
was brain-dead grey,  
and the bristled flesh of his face  
the colour of cold sink water  
on its way down the drain

to the workers

your legs above the sheen of your neck

your eyes above the grace of your check

to send a certain nothing to say

to the workers sweating musically



Brent Mackinn