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Hughie Kilpatrick and The Pregnant Woman *Alec Williamson*

His name was Hughie Kilpatrick and he was in Dingwall and now he was going back to, to Loch Broom. The Dirrie's a long road you know, that's when you pass Garve, and the Dirrie's a very long road and it used to be a very lonely road. But he came to near Loch Broom that was a shepherd's house, and there was a shepherd's house in it then even, because it's mentioned a shepherds house. And before he came to the house, there's a loch beside the road and it was called Loch Broom.

Now there was a shepherd's cottage. I don't know what kind of road would be in it then, it would more or less a bridle path or something like that so he came along til he was pretty near the house by then. But he saw a woman, at the roadside, a young woman, and she was shouting and she was groaning and moaning and he came

'What's wrong with you, lassie?' he said 'What's wrong with you?' And then he looked, he knew.

She was about to give birth. Whatever she was doing out there at that time, I couldn't tell you, that's not on the story.

But anyway there's was a lot of wild horses about then, a lot of them, and he went and picked a small one out, a smallish horse, and he got the bow and arrow or the musket. I think it was a bow and arrow to took. He killed the animal anyway. And as we say in Scotland, he

gralloched it, well he cleaned it, you know. And he plucked heather, plenty heather yonder, and then he made a bed inside it.

‘Come here’ he said ‘Are you about to..?’

‘Oh yes’ she said ‘They’re coming faster now.’

‘Right’ he said ‘I think you’ll have room’ he said ‘there. Get in, anyway.’

And the horse, he dragged him to the bank and he tied his rope and he tied his four feet and he got his arms through and then he took a heave up and he got it on his back so he wasn’t bad.

Anyway, he came to Loch Broom, he hadnae far to go, he came to Loch Broom and he went up to the door and a woman came to the door and she thought it was the very devil himself because she saw the hooves coming in you know and

‘Who are you? What is it?’ And she heard the woman. ‘Oh my God’ she said.

‘There’s nothing else’ he said ‘ I could do. I had to get her some help’.

So the woman took the woman in and she wasn’t, she wasn’t ten minutes in the house when she gave birth to a baby boy. And they got tea in the house and she said to Hughie

‘You managed that?’ she said.

'Well I had to' he said 'or else she would die. I had to manage it. Ach' he said 'I've got my strength and I managed it. She's not very heavy anyway, the horse was only small'.

And he left her there.

'Now' he said 'I've got you to a house that there's nice people and they'll help you. I'll have to go now' he said 'I've a long way to go'.

And he did and he passed the house right down by the Corrieshalloch, as you call it, but at the top of Corrieshalloch, there's a road branching off to the left so that's the way you go to Dundonnell and Loch Broom and the way that he was going Corrieshalloch. And he went that way.

Well, it was maybe a year or two years. Two years I think it was, when he saw this boat coming across the way and here was this woman in the boat and a little toddler.

'This is him' she said 'that you saved and you saved me. And I found out' she said 'where you were.' I don't know what she gave him. She gave him some...

'No. no, no' he said 'I don't want paying for that' he said.

'I'm not paying you at all. I'm not about paying. If I was paying you,' she said 'I'd give you far more than that'.

But she give him some gold piece anyway.

'Well' he said 'if you want to do that but look I don't want paying or anything like that.'

Well, the boy grew up and he was able to take a boat himself and he always came.

And he said 'It's funny' he said.

'Hugh, that's your name?' he said.

'Yes' he said 'Hugh is my name' and he said 'I'm Kilpatrick. Hugh Kilpatrick'

'That's great' he said.

He said 'I came out of my mother's belly and still' he said 'I came out of the belly of a horse and it's all through you'.

So that was the story of him and the pregnant woman.

This is the transcript of the audio file available at
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