



PROJECT MUSE®

## Neck of the World

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## HAPPY

to coax the shining hair  
of dusk down like a rope,  
to map a new route  
from the wintered forest to  
the stadium of rubble,  
to fill a stone cup  
with the dust that once  
was a gladiator's knuckle,  
to harbor certainties  
about the fish of candlelight  
stewing on the ceiling,  
to know the inner mouth  
as sleek with star noise  
among craters and plaque,  
to trace the dead man's  
handwriting that lopes  
with a river's reason,  
to witness the river climbing  
muddy in its banks,  
to know both as breathing.