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Neck of the World

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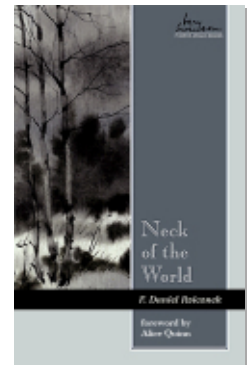
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WITHIN WITHIN

The bear pauses long
enough to shine a dense industry
of triangular teeth.

With each narrowing move
my bones evaporate slightly,
the world slipping into youth,
salmon defleshed into roe,
trees pulling leaves straight from soil
back through the grey armor of bark,
the smokestacks tearing themselves
apart like heartbeats.

See: he staggers underneath,
fattened hind legs upright
as a wiry moth alights, touching off
a depth charge in his skull—
some smoke, tugging waves.
I refuse to exist.