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Neck of the World

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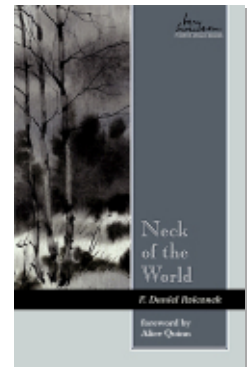
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DREAMER IN WINTER

The river ice is hard
enough to splinter bone:
the night sky pinned
to the inside of his skull.
Each try at a dive
takes longer. Soon the music
quits him, winds away
through the snowbound tips
of grass to the mouth
of the road that spat him up
onto the day's tongue.
With caves of wind
around his ears and eyes,
those tools of his escaping,
a fox that had whimpered
beneath an icicled hill
waiting to join him, finds
his brain rotten as a berry,
teeth a fence of bruises,
and the sun breaking on frost:
another restless idea finished,
impossibly happy without him.