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## Neck of the World

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Published by Utah State University Press

Rzicznek, F. Daniel.

Neck of the World.

Utah State University Press, 2007.

Project MUSE.[muse.jhu.edu/book/9411](https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9411).



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## VOWS OF BABEL

When my kneecaps leap  
with a lion's startle,  
will you quell them, soothe  
them down like the dead?  
And when I have spires  
rising from my eyes, will  
you turn them inward?  
And the sky, when it  
folds the diagram of light,  
the single, failing number,  
will you charter riddles  
in four directions? And  
when I hear musicians  
below, and you, you hear  
the love-groans of vermin,  
will you seal my jambs  
with golden wax? And when  
the god comes careening in,  
howling for sacrificial meat,  
will you have me wrapped  
tight in a cloth he does not  
know? Oh, will you have  
tucked me away, like a stone?