



PROJECT MUSE®

## Neck of the World

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## STORMDWELLER

It starts with the call of a lamp  
to a book across the room  
and the call of the book  
to a crippled spider overhead,  
the spider not calling at all  
anymore, the mute lines  
of inquiry growing in half-circles  
toward the call of huge winds  
wanting to lift the third story  
out over the bare mountains,  
twist it there like a cloud,  
the third story itself calling  
to the anonymous thunder  
and spinning still inside, the call  
of the chair to the haunch,  
and the call of haunch to a wren  
sunk dead in the rooftop snow,  
and the calling of the weathervane  
to the kitchen spoons, the calls  
of thumbnail to the hammer  
and the endless calling of the face  
to the skull, the skull calling  
and calling, calling unanswered.