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## Neck of the World

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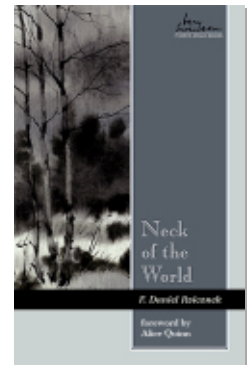
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## BLOOD REALM

The tall rushes wait to be parted  
and then conceal, when  
into the black, muscular length  
of marsh the walking becomes  
splashing, a tiding that carries  
the steely odor of death into the air.  
This morning, as we drove,  
the first thing our eyes met  
was the headless flowering

of a fat deer left in a ditch, until  
this final, inked out landscape  
where our tiredness is a sound—  
a heavy steam escaping the throat  
on an east-west road our walking  
grinds gently before dawn.  
When digested, the land loses  
its birdcalls and dens of mud,  
turns to a low-pitch rumble:

a water-logged revolving  
of trees and necks—the middle  
of the mind gone under to a fast  
and constant silence. We turn  
our numbness to the wind, which  
is the sound of a hand in the dark  
pulling dark brains from between  
antlers, out of the skull, and the eye  
that sees them shine, shines.