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Neck of the World

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GENIUS OF FROGS

In the room drawn from rain
 I've tied maps to the ceiling
to track the flecks of winter
 in each summer's sprung instant,
and the notched, pump-handle tail
 of the dusk-scented phoebe
perched on a gutter the wind pulls
 atom by atom apart each night.
Steel tufts of cumulus sweep
 over my charge and yellows
of automobile headlamps snake
 through mountainways beneath.
I mold a calendar from earth,
 arranging the air's lean mouth
between the sharp flashing of cars,
 the phoebe's broken path of eggs,
and a slew of dewy eyes tug away
 from one another into the prethought
of legs: the coming-to,
 the disappearance at water's door.