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## Neck of the World

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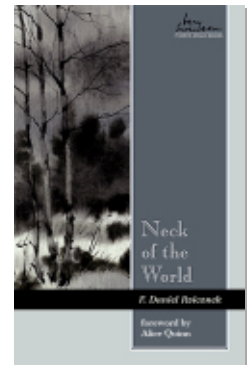
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## PRIMER

The white crane  
hooks backward through town  
to a pond reddish with soot,  
wraps broad wings  
around its pumping body,  
eases to the bottom's murk  
silent as snowmelt. Bells  
of ancient air collect  
in the ears of the man  
thought long dead  
who emerges now  
from his ramshackle house,  
who steps lightly  
through the rusted gate  
to which feathers  
have been stapled as a warning.