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Neck of the World

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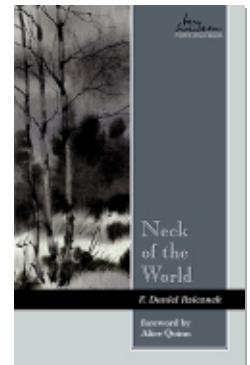
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FIRST LADY

Whole, the land soaks
pressure like a bandage,
the slow break of time

across the nightstand clock,
the sleet in chains
past the window's swart lid,

pearl wind rotting the yule:
(underwear, cars, underwear.)
Your gown is priceless.

Stung like a rabbit,
you dream your feet stepping
to a country-sized landmine

until in a loose flash
the face-shaped leaves and high
tidal trees release

floating boxes of the dead,
a bastard's returning theme:
text, ghost text.