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Neck of the World

F. Daniel Rzicznek

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RETURNING THE GHOST

After the glass of crashing
I bleed into the fields:
water chewing at itself
under icy lids, houses gathering
their cloudy bulks, shouts
of dogs falling over the ridge
with sudden weight,
night turning like a spear
in its own pulsing gut
and the sound that waited:
swish and rasp of ducks
in the bent corn behind me,
flapping themselves red,
nudging down into my lungs,
the air folding us shut
like a blade.