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## Neck of the World

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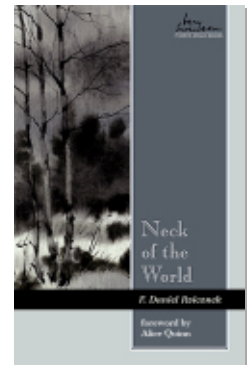
Published by Utah State University Press

Rzicznek, F. Daniel.

Neck of the World.

Utah State University Press, 2007.

Project MUSE.[muse.jhu.edu/book/9411](https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9411).



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## CRESTED DAUGHTER

The daughter of a father  
who was the son of a father  
whose great, great grandmother  
was a blue jay  
scraping along a rusty girder  
not far from where this page's  
mother tree was drawn and laid  
like a ship toward the end  
of daylight—storm  
of boot heels, the bleating of saws,  
and all through the earth  
the genus slandered the flat homily  
of bodies—their one wish:  
to abandon the shape,  
the formlessness of a shape,  
which is why the earth can  
be concerned only with this last  
blue jay, her harsh squawk,  
her color—white under throat, sky  
back, the bird gun-sized,  
firing cries above the fires,  
tucking her feet under, in.