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Neck of the World

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DECOMP

When the gutters fill, you
ask where the rain lives
and are redirected to the worms
who notify the willow-roots
of your inquiry, and I can tell
we're about to get a series
of questions long enough
to knot softly into a noose.
She stole the farmer's only
horse and rode bareback
through the pear orchard;
something about love or a lover,
an interrogation of her body,
how it governs each sense.
It was, at its end, a short,
sad story too immense to enact
here, but details do remain:
she wore ballerina shoes
and the boards creaked like
leather beneath her, and then,
staining the gallows a spot
at a time, the rain through
which she is still falling,
a floor of clouds amassed
around the crags of her feet.