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Neck of the World

F. Daniel Rzicznek

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NOTES

“Outside the Horse” takes its title from a phrase in the last few lines of James Wright’s poem “A Dream of Burial” from *The Branch Will Not Break*.

“Dust Merchant” owes a debt to Yusef Komunyakaa’s character the Thorn Merchant from various poems in his book *I Apologize for the Eyes in My Head*.

“Ten Cents Worth of Fog” takes its title from a line by Issa, as translated by Robert Hass in *The Essential Haiku*.

“Where Your Victory” takes its title from a phrase found in the hymn “Christ the Lord is Risen Today.”

“A Mouthful of Crickets,” “Neck of the Woods,” and “Host” are hereby dedicated to Larissa Szporluk, who literally compelled me to write them.

“Helmet in the Glade” and “Neck of the World” are dedicated to Amy Newman, whose questions helped them breathe.

The epigraphs are from Charles Simic’s “Sleep” in *Dismantling the Silence*, and from Tom Andrews’s “When Comfort Arrives” from *Random Symmetries: The Collected Poems of Tom Andrews*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

F. Daniel Rzicznek was born in Indiana and grew up in northeastern Ohio. He received his BA from Kent State University and earned an MFA in creative writing from Bowling Green State University. His chapbook of prose poems, *Cloud Tablets*, part of the Wick Poetry Chapbook Series, appeared from Kent State University Press in 2006. His poems have appeared in *The New Republic*, *Boston Review*, *AGNI*, *The Iowa Review*, *Mississippi Review*, and numerous other literary journals. Currently, he teaches English composition at Bowling Green State University and lives with his wife in Bowling Green, Ohio. *Neck of the World* is his first book-length collection of poems.

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May Swenson lived most of her adult life in New York City, the center of American poetry writing and publishing in her day. But she is buried in Logan, Utah, her birthplace and hometown.