Neck of the World

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Published by Utah State University Press

Rzicznek, F. Daniel.
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Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/9411.

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The river ice is hard enough to splinter bone: the night sky pinned to the inside of his skull. Each try at a dive takes longer. Soon the music quits him, winds away through the snowbound tips of grass to the mouth of the road that spat him up onto the day’s tongue. With caves of wind around his ears and eyes, those tools of his escaping, a fox that had whimpered beneath an icicled hill waiting to join him, finds his brain rotten as a berry, teeth a fence of bruises, and the sun breaking on frost: another restless idea finished, impossibly happy without him.