Neck of the World

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Published by Utah State University Press

Rzicznek, F. Daniel.
Neck of the World.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/9411.

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DURING FEVER

Caustic wisp of malaria
   like woodsmoke near the nose,
tumult of decisive blood
   en route from twinkling docks,
a pressing of your figure
   like a handle into the earth.
Landscape remains portable,
   the hills rise into your temples.
Leafy coils roll south
   under black vaults of storm
soaking your rage,
   fading your lids a gradual suede.
The trees jitter above you:
   pin oak, pine, litany of maples.
Roaring sun, imploding roar:
   death like death only.