Neck of the World

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GENIUS OF FROGS

In the room drawn from rain
   I’ve tied maps to the ceiling
to track the flecks of winter
   in each summer’s sprung instant,
and the notched, pump-handle tail
   of the dusk-scented phoebe
perched on a gutter the wind pulls
   atom by atom apart each night.
Steel tufts of cumulus sweep
   over my charge and yellows
of automobile headlamps snake
   through mountainways beneath.
I mold a calendar from earth,
   arranging the air’s lean mouth
between the sharp flashing of cars,
   the phoebe’s broken path of eggs,
and a slew of dewy eyes tug away
   from one another into the prethought
of legs: the coming-to,
   the disappearance at water’s door.