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While We've Still Got Feet



Synopsis

Familiar to listeners of National Public Radio, David Budbill is beloved by legions for straightforward poems dispatched from his hermitage on Judevine Mountain. Inspired by classical Chinese hermit poets, he follows tradition but cannot escape the complications and struggles of a modern solitary existence. Loneliness, aging and political outrage are addressed in poems that value honesty and simplicity and deplore pretension. For more than three decades, David Budbill has lived on a remote mountain in northern Vermont writing poems, reading Chinese classics, tending to his garden and, of course, working on his website. Budbill has been featured more than any other author on Garrison Keillor's The Writer's Almanac.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I rarely, if ever, read poetry but this book jumped out at me while browsing Elliot's in Seattle. I think it was the cover that first attracted my attention but then I was pulled into the stories that the author relates, the journeys on which he goes, the ideas that begin to be dislodged from far corners of the readers mind, the sadness of our world, the happiness in his life even on Judevine Mountain, the resignation of age and yet the joy of experience and discovery. The last poem in the series certainly sets it all up though the reader will find many others throughout that will capture the imagination. I liked the concept of following in the footsteps of earlier Chinese poets and longed for the ability to discriminate among types of writing. It's a good read, over, and over, and over.

these poems are delightful and thoughtful musings about life as David and all of us live it. they are

mostly simple reflections about daily life with quotes from a Chinese writer who is long gone yet current in its impact. I like rereading these because I can go deeper and find the humor.

Budbill keeps you honest. Perhaps you don't live in a mountain cabin far from the bustle of humanity, but it turns out the issues are the same for you as for him -- and he has more time to think about them. Aging, death, ambition, the lure of solitude and the simple life, but also the lure of city lights and society. He has his own companions and interlocutors among the Eastern poets; make this Western poet one of yours.

I own and have seen David read from his other books and perform in person a number of times...great person great poetry...

To have and to savor

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