



Happy Life

David Budbill

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“David Budbill is a no-nonsense free-range sage who celebrates tomatoes in September, the whistle of a woodcock and sweet black tea and ancient Chinese poems.” —*New York Times*

“Budbill both informs and moves. He is, in short, a delight and a comfort.” —Wendell Berry

“[Budbill] can be hilarious, as when he gripes, ‘What good is my humility / when I am / stuck / in this obscurity?’” —*Booklist*, starred review

“His terse, epigrammatic lyrics are a lilting mirror of classical Chinese poetry.” —*The Wichita Eagle*

David Budbill continues his popular poetic ruminations on life in remote New England—an outward survey of a forested mountain and an introspection of self-reliance, anonymity, and the creative life. Inspired by classical Chinese and Japanese poets, Budbill contemplates the seasons, ambition, his questionable desire for fame and fortune, and simple, focused contentment: “Weed the beans. Pick the peas.”

“Out in the Woods”

*The only time I'm really free is when I'm out in the woods
cutting firewood, stacking brush, clearing trails.*

*Just the chain saw, the dog and me.
Heave and groan, sweat and ache.*

*Work until I can't stand it anymore.
Take a break.*

*Sit on the needle-strewn ground up against a big pine tree,
drink some water, stare out through the woods, pet the dog.*

*Stretch out on the ground, take a nap,
dog's head on my lap.*

*Ah, this would be the time and place and way
to die.*

David Budbill is the author of poems, plays, essays, speeches, and book reviews. He has also served as a commentator on NPR's *All Things Considered*. He lives in the mountains of northern Vermont where he tends his garden and website.

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