



News from

Red Hen Press

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Ludlow

A Verse-Novel

David Mason

*Ludlow* is a novel in verse, meaning it has the speed, concision and accuracy of the best poetry, along with the expansiveness and character development of a novel. It tells the story of a handful of immigrants—Greek, Mexican, Scottish, Italian—in southern Colorado, climaxing in the Ludlow Massacre of April 1914, in which elements of the Colorado National Guard killed striking miners and family members. *Ludlow* is a searing story told with great art, and a major contribution to the literature of the American West.

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*Ludlow*

Poetry by David Mason

ISBN: 978-1-59709-472-6

6 x 8.5; Tradepaper

232 pages

Price: US \$24.95

Second Edition released: April 1, 2010

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Biographical note:

**David Mason**, the newly appointed Poet Laureate of Colorado, has written several books of poems, including *The Buried Houses* (winner of the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize), *The Country I Remember* (winner of the Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award), and *Arrivals*. His verse novel, *Ludlow*, was published in 2007, and named best poetry book of the year by the Contemporary Poetry Review and the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Author of a collection of essays, *The Poetry of Life and the Life of Poetry*, Mason has also co-edited several textbooks and anthologies, including *Western Wind: An Introduction to Poetry*, *Rebel Angels: 25 Poets of the New Formalism*, *Twentieth Century American Poetry*, and *Twentieth Century American Poetics: Poets on the Art of Poetry*. His poetry, prose and translations have appeared in such periodicals as *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *Poetry*. He has also written the libretto for composer Lori Laitman's opera of *The Scarlet Letter*. He recently won the Thatcher Hoffman Smith Creativity in Motion Prize for the development of a new libretto. A former Fulbright Fellow to Greece, he lives near the Garden of the Gods in Colorado with his wife, Anne Lennox.

Praise for *Ludlow*:

“A true verse novel (real verse, real novel), David Mason’s *Ludlow* revisits one of the cruelest, bloodiest chapters in the history of American labor and state and corporate injustice: the Ludlow coal field massacre of 1914, in which eighteen men, women, and children of coal mining families were killed by the Colorado National Guard. Within a driving narrative that never loses momentum, Mason’s deftly drawn characters, both historical and fictional, take on the lineaments of Dorothea Lange’s photographs. With *Ludlow*, reminiscent in its political and dramatic power of Steinbeck’s *In Dubious Battle*, Mason confirms his reputation as one of America’s finest poets and a master of narrative.”

—B.H. Fairchild