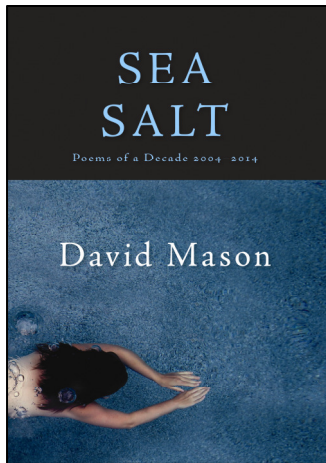




News from

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Sea Salt

Poems of a Decade: 2004-2014

David Mason

ISBN 978-1-59709-965-3

Binding: Tradepaper

Size: 6 x 8.5; Pages: 104

Price: US \$18.95

Pub Date: April 1, 2014



David Mason



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Sea Salt, award-winning poet David Mason's first new collection of shorter poems in a decade, is a beautiful evocation of crisis and change.

Long regarded as one of the best narrative and dramatic poets at work in the United States, David Mason has also been regularly producing soulful lyrics. In the ten years since the publication of his last collection of shorter poems, Mason has refined his art in the fires of wrenching personal change. The result is an almost entirely new poetic voice and his most rigorous and memorable book to date. Emotionally resonant and elegant in phrasing, the poems of *Sea Salt*, which have appeared in publications such as *Best American Poetry*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, and *Poetry*, are a powerful evocation of crisis and change. These "poems of a decade" demonstrate that the author of *Ludlow: A Verse Novel* and *The Scarlet Libretto* is also a lyric poet at the top of his game.

Praise for *Sea Salt*

"In these poems of loss, discovery and love, David Mason delivers a stunning collection that places him in a unique position in American letters. With language both simple and elegant, comprehending deeply if not always comfortably the human landscape, and finding solace in the natural world, his lines remind us that pathos lies alongside humor, that profound moments are often merely a glance away, that new possibilities in the business of *living* arise for those bold enough to seek them. In his embrace of tradition Mason transforms and ultimately transcends the form, making it wholly his own. A masterful poet, apart from the crowd."

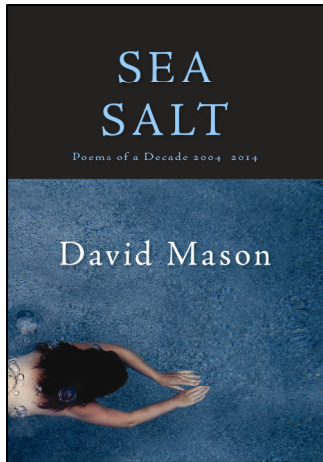
—Jeffrey Lent

"Go to the heart of things, therein irony does not reside, Rilke tells us. These words came to my mind often as I read this newest collection from one of our country's finest poets. Mason's formal excellence is cause enough to celebrate these poems, but it is the emotional honesty, sentiment not sentimentality, that makes *Sea Salt* such a deeply moving and memorable reading experience."

—Ron Rash

Biographical Note

David Mason is the Poet Laureate of Colorado. He is the author of eight books, including the verse novel *Ludlow*. He lives in Colorado and Oregon and teaches at Colorado College.



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More Praise for *Sea Salt*

“David Mason’s poems are about moments of realization. Something is otherwise. Something has been learned with pain and still it won’t settle. There are families moving through houses and institutions, ageing, losing grip, and there are the young and rising and memories of youth. The language is humane, unfussy, firm, moving but not calculated to move. And beyond the personal there is the country as it spreads through its inhabitants and leaves its mark on nature. ‘Nobody gave me a god,’ ends one poem, ‘so I perfect my idolatry of doubt.’ It is the doubt that is moving, the way it rounds itself and speaks.”

—George Szirtes

From *Sea Salt*

Sea Salt

Light dazzles from the grass
over the carnal dune.
This too shall come to pass,
but will it happen soon?
A kite nods to its string.
A cloud is happening
above the tripping waves,
joined by another cloud.
They are a crowd that moves.
The sky becomes a shroud
cut by a blade of sun.
There’s nothing to be done.

The soul, if there’s a soul
moves out to what it loves,
whatever makes it whole.
The sea stands still and moves,
denoting nothing new,
deliberating now.

The days are made of hours,
hours of instances,
and none of them are ours.
The sand blows through the fences.
Light darkens on the grass.
This too shall come to pass.