

poems by **DAVID IGNATOW**

RESCUE THE DEAD



Van Saun

2/14/18

For
Father Merton,

David Ignatiew

East Hampton, NY

RESCUE
THE
DEAD

Poems by DAVID IGNATOW

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

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"Anew" (there titled "Dante Forgot") and the final stanza of "Six Movements on a Theme" (there titled "The Message") were first printed in *Elizabeth*.

"Sediment" appeared originally in *The New Yorker*.

"All Quiet," "For Nobody Else," "The Hope," "On the Death of Churchill," and "Rescue the Dead" were first published in *Poetry*.

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DAVID
IGNATOW

RESCUE THE DEAD

I feel along the edges of life
for a way
that will lead to open land.

WITH THAT three-line epigraph, David Ignatow declares the thrust and purpose of his compelling new book. Unlike his previous work, which was written largely in reaction to the world about him—the urban landscape with its clamor and violence and business pressures—these new poems turn inward. They explore and affirm the individual in his never ending search for awareness and realization: a process in which conflict, love, sorrow, and insight in the end come together into a precarious balance that is its own form of peace.

David Ignatow is among the most widely known of living American poets. His work has appeared in many journals and in four earlier books—most recently, *Say Pardon* and *Figures of the Human*. His honors include an award from the National Institute of Arts and Letters “for a lifetime of creative effort,” a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Shelley Memorial Award of the Poetry Society of America. He has been poet in residence at the universities of Kentucky and Kansas, and has taught at the New School, Southampton College, and Columbia. In the autumn of 1967 he was named lecturer in English at Vassar.

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