

David Budbill -- Two Poems

Growing Old

Mary Jo Smyth is dead.
Eleanor Young is dead.
Eva Colgrove is dead.
Lu Shan is dead.
Growing old is
knowing more and
more dead people
until you don't
know anyone
at all

Death and Dying

All I write about lately
 is death and dying,
which goes to show
 I'm really not that old.
I'm only 72. My friends
 10 years older
than I am never talk
 about death or dying.
They're too close to it
 to talk about it.
Besides they know,
 there's no point anyway.

David Budbill was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1940. He is the author of nine books of poems (three of which are Copper Canyon Press books), nine plays, a novel, a collection of short stories, a picture book for children, and dozens of essays, introductions, speeches, and book reviews. His newest book, *Park Songs: A Poem/Play*, will be published by Exterminating Angel Press in September of 2012. There is more information about all these items on his website at: www.davidbudbill.com Garrison Keillor reads frequently from David's poems on *The Writer's Almanac*. His prizes and honors include an Honorary Doctorate from New England College, 2009, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in playwriting, 1991, and a Guggenheim Fellowship in poetry, 1982-1983. He lives in the mountains of northern Vermont where he cuts firewood, tends his garden and website.