

MAN ON A LEDGE

WEIST -- Aarseth

On a tiny fourteenth-floor ledge, an overwrought Navy veteran carries on a lonely debate -- to live or die.

Firemen, with emergency equipment, rush to the Veterans' Hospital in New York City where the grim drama continues into the night. Searchlights play across the ledge -- and then -- after fourteen hours on his precarious perch, the vet is pulled to safety.

Back from the brink of eternity comes Sidney Hermann, who had mumbled to rescuers: "the whole world is against me." One of the heroes of the drama is Murdo Gorrigan, who pleaded for hours with the ex-sailor not jump. After holding the nation's largest city in fascinated horror for hours, Sidney Hermann chose life.