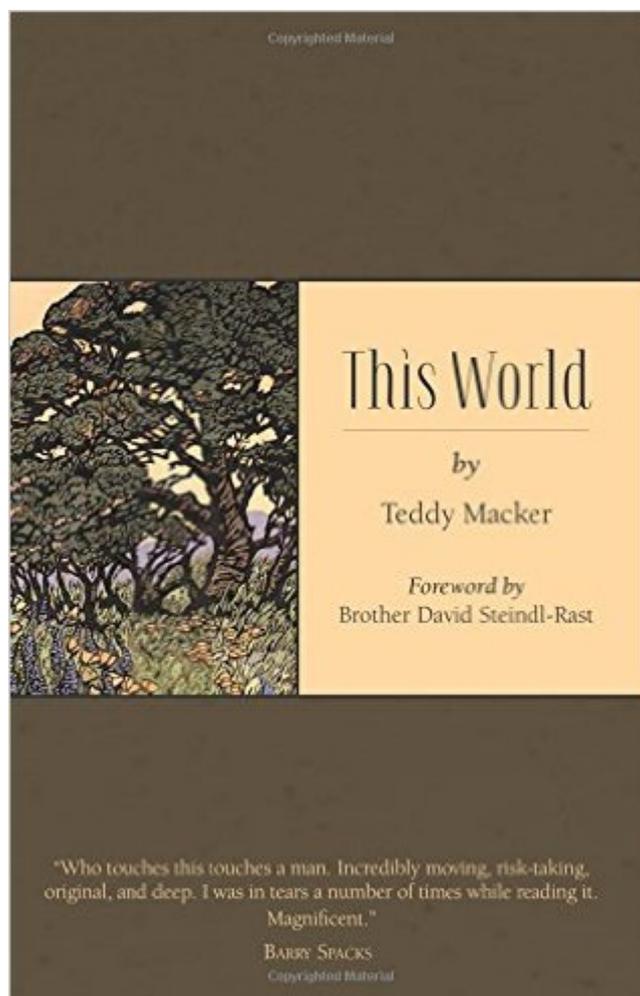


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# This World



## Synopsis

In the lucid, melodic, various poems of *This World*, Teddy Macker returns us to the great mystery all around us, a mystery we so easily forget, the mystery of trout, the mystery of orchard, the mystery of our beautiful human bodies. Within these pages, Macker also chronicles the journey inside the whale, telling us not just of fear and trembling but also of the magnificent harps only found in the belly of the beast. By turns ecological, erotic, compassionate, and mystical, these poems return us to this world, the kingdom we've been looking for.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Macker's verse is masterful, and, even better: its wildness is not hampered by mastery. Much like the great Wendell Berry, Macker encourages us to reckon with the beauty of OUR world: the very world we move through as if on our hurried way to someplace else. His poems remind us of the beauty in pain, the beauty in compassion, the beauty in moments we don't have to reach or wait for but have access to right now, if only we are willing to pay attention. This is a book full of life.

My goodness did this book land in my lap at the right time. We live in such a harried world, full of rushing and anxiety, and we're so consistently blind to the joys and aches of real life unfolding around us. *This World*, aptly named, is a beautiful and soul-bared dive into the now, a mindful meditation on the stuff we ought to be paying attention to. To say it resonated would be putting it far too lightly. It moved me, shifted my frame from ruminating wildly about things past or yet to come. I read it through over a few dedicated sittings, and every few poems I would drop the book, inspired

by its power, and enjoy some moments of being and presence with my wife and my dog and with the rays of evening sun peaking through our gauzy curtains. Then I would go back to the poems, swept up in the incisive language of an emerging master. A note to those who don't live and breathe poetry: This book doesn't hide itself. Accessible is a word with all kinds of weird connotations, but it's clear that the author crafted this to be universally accessible. Highly recommended for serious poetry junkies as well as for those who'd like their first baptism in the art and craft.

This is a great book. As you read it, you will find the world coming alive around you. With a steady, unflinching and compassionate eye, Macker peels the onionskins surrounding our world, revealing the joy, tragedy and mystery we are often too busy to see. Macker's acute awareness of nature deepens his explorations of what it means to be human. In this book you will find love, death, naughty parrots, sex, tragedy, joy, and lone sycamore branches swaying in the wind. I guarantee you this: read three of macker's poems and walk outside. I'll bet your eyes will be open a little wider, your heart will be a little lighter and you will hear birds you never heard before. I hope you will enjoy this book as much as I have.

You'll hear echoes of Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder in Macker's work. He's a poet of sensuality and spirituality and the natural world, and by the end of this book, he'll have shown you how they're all facets of one gem. Macker is no ivory tower poet, and these are not poems for professors. If you bought a hundred copies of this book and handed them out to people who passed you on the street, everyone could read it, appreciate it, grow a little closer to their world and themselves and each other. And you'd probably get into heaven on the basis of that act alone. While reading THIS WORLD (favorite poems: "The Poet Game," "Sycamore Canyon," "Willie and Frank," "Across the Ocean," "Jonquils and Storm Windows," "Fig," "Eat," "Halo of Dust," "Marrow," and "Prayer"), Henry James's dictum that a writer should be "one of those people on whom nothing is lost" returned again and again to my mind. The questing horns of a snail, the evening bells of Barcelona, the strangeness of birds flying over a lagoon, the sweet exact taste of figs, the pretty girl with one eye bigger than the other: nothing is lost on Teddy Macker. Here is his volume of limpid, lovely poems, stuffed with so much heart it might explode.

THIS WORLD, by Teddy Macker  
Teddy Macker is a mystical old man who, having taken many paths, recommends the one beside a singing brook. You will want to tarry, you may lose yourself in

the waterâ€™s song, but you will arrive refreshed. What a relief to find an accomplished, capable poet who eschews pretentious phrasing. You feel yourself relax into the simple, engaging way he speaks. You begin to trust. Then the subtle layers do their work. I am surprised by the poetâ€™s gratitude, at times a prayer: "you can never have enough of waking in a bed beside a woman you love, her body fragrant with itself" -- From "This World II" • Macker is eloquent on every subject but closest to the natural, sensuous world, which he offers from his own warm hand. I would not simply call Macker a nature poet. I would call him a poet true to his nature, a poet of fertile earth. He drinks life in, inviting us to taste unashamed beauty without shame. • Read THIS WORLD.

Teddy Mackerâ€™s poems restore faith in This World. Ever mindful, they "make oneâ€™s soul tilt," in his words from the first poem "Numen," through the last one, "The Wakening" about the birth of a hummingbird entering "the deepening light." In Macker's remarkable first book, each poem makes the ordinary extraordinary. The smallest detail, the most subtle sound, becomes entry to his world filling us with the wonder of being truly alive, often missed in our mindless rush to keep up with demands. This book will help you be far more aware, if not a happier person, and every parent should read "A Poem for My Daughter."

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