

# The Actual World



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The gifted author of *Sure Shot* (about which *The Harvard Review* wrote, “Erica Funkhouser has written an important book and is on her way to becoming an important poet”) has now composed her third volume, including lyrics that conjure up a sisterly view of childhood, a narrative poem that brings to life a city under siege in civil war, and a group of poignant shorter poems dramatizing love, pain, and history. Much anthologized, Erica Funkhouser's dramatic poems are models of their kind: “Funkhouser breathes new life into the legends of Sacagawea, Louisa May Alcott, and Annie Oakley . . . but her most moving poems are those in her own voice” (*Library Journal*). To get the shape right one must be capricious as a twig - crave sunlight and audience and leave things open to the rain - respecting, at the same time, the solemnity of the whole tree. Certain irrevocable decisions must be lived with.

- From "Pruning"

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目录:

[The Actual World 下载链接1](#)

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