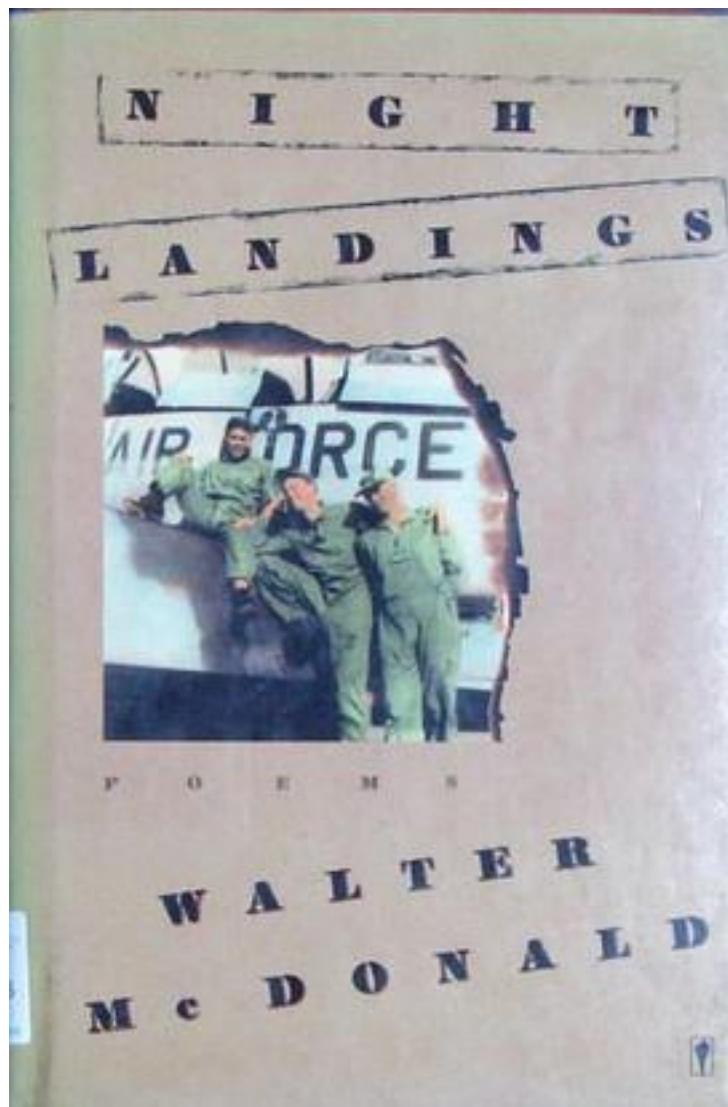


Night landings



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著者:Walter McDonald

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NIGHT LANDINGS
In easy orbits we learned to land
night fighters by the numbers.
Line up the propeller cone a thousand feet
above the lighted runway
pitch sixty degrees
and hold it
back pressure
back pressure
a nudge on the rudder to hold the nose up.
Roll out
trusting the darkness
drop the landing gear and count one thousand one
one thousand two
and turn back to base
airspeed falling
nose falling in the turn
to final
lights of the runway pulling you home
like a magnetic compass
wings rolling level
as the nose lifts
the tire-streaked runway
dim between the skimming lights
at last
the shudder of wheels scudding along on asphalt.
All by the numbers
easy.
The night I soloed
red lights rolled flashing into the woods
searching for Pennington
his third solo
a nice kid
eager for everything.
What happened in those seconds
approaching the base we only guessed
The tower controller reported granting
clearance to land
watching the T-28 approach
and pitch-out steep as it should
but it kept on
rolling in the turn until inverted
!!

作者介绍:

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