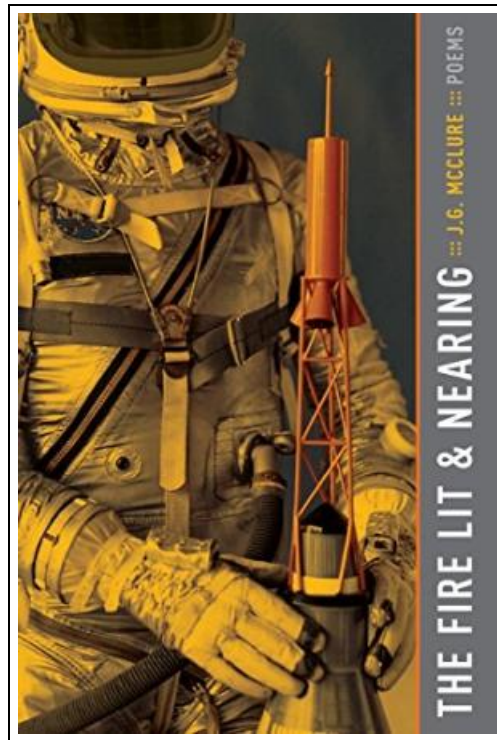


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Indolent Arts Foundation, Inc., 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Wit and nihilism, deadpan intelligence, and candid examinations of human hungers abound in J.G. McClure s *The Fire Lit Nearing*. McClure s smoldering poems take on the grind of time, obsessive love, manliness and its illusions, alternative fates, being and nothingness, and much more. His is a winning voice, dark and self-critical, a bit reminiscent of John Berryman s, a brave and true voice one might dub melancholic/comic/heroic. AMY GERSTLER The recurrent mode of J.G. McClure s *The Fire Lit Nearing* is a version of lament and complaint (both with long distinguished poetic traditions), but this tone is relieved and complicated and enriched by McClure s distinctive zaniness and invention, which gives the reader great enjoyment in this kind of gaiety transfiguring all that dread A la Yeats. This inventiveness also makes use of McClure s intelligence in a fundamentally writerly way and communicates the mind-of-the-writer at work in an exhilarating act of making that extracts beauty even from human pain and despair. MICHAEL RYAN J.G. McClure s first book, *The Fire Lit Nearing*, is a wild cosmically inclusive, sometimes surreal, sometimes hilarious but always compelling thought experiment about contingency as both a source of freedom and inescapable pain. These poems embody an irrepressible charm, a formal poise and wit that I find welcoming, even life affirming, even in the midst of sorrow. A truly beautiful book. ALAN SHAPIRO.

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