

The Night Flight From Houston

Laurie Anderson

It was the night flight from Houston. Almost perfect visibility . You could see the lights from all the little Texas towns far below. And I was sitting next to a fifty-year old woman who had never been on a plane before. And her son had sent her a ticket and said:

“Mom, you've raised ten kids; it's time you got on a plane. And she was sitting in a window seat staring out and she kept talking about the Big Dipper and that Little Dipper and pointing ; and suddenly I realized that she thought we were in outer space looking down at the stars. And I said:

“You know, I think those lights down there are the lights from little towns.