



*THE SWING GIRL* is poised between serenity and sorrow. Katherine Soniat's themes are large, and her detail is exquisite. Her new book comes alive with wild, disciplined musicality.

—D. Nurkse

The fluidity of their cadence and the luminosity of imagery carry the reader to the wellspring of poetry itself, that deep delight of which Robert Penn Warren spoke, whose source is, as Soniat indicates, "beauty on its way to being mystery."

—Kathryn Stripling Byer

Many poets have written of the Mediterranean, but Katherine Soniat gives us poetry that so vividly calls up contemporary and ancient Greece, the hard light, the sea, the god-haunted groves and the graves, we feel as if we are there ourselves.

—Kelly Cherry



### Thoughts at Paliani

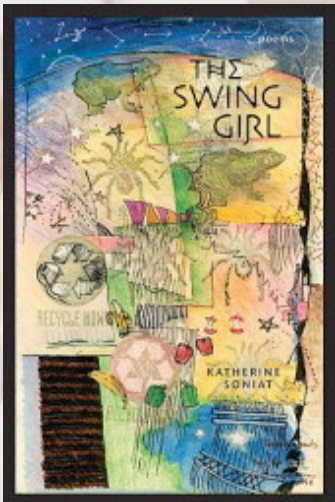


**On the plain below, dozens of cloth windmills spin, the air clean enough to see through. Like the waterfall you slipped behind, or left through, years ago.**

**Light fills the convent garden, the thousand-year myrtle tree covered with hundreds of hopes for recovery: bright ribbons knotted to branches while the sick keep faltering.**

**One wish gives rise to another, and dominoes click in the shade on a tile table. The nun, who has lived here since she was three, picks fleas from the dog then pours our thick coffee. The oldest peer from curtained screen doors. They cook for themselves, eat alone, and pray for the world.**

**It's a long stream water makes falling, each drop coalescing. That spring you died, the moss on the banks was greener, spray going farther than thought.**



**THE SWING GIRL POEMS BY KATHERINE SONIAT  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
ISBN 9780807138946 LIST PRICE: \$17.95**

<http://lsupress.org/books/detail/the-swing-girl/>

ARRIVING IN OCTOBER CONTACT KATHERINE SONIAT AT EMAIL: KSONIAT@VT.EDU