

The Moon and Other Inventions by Kristina Marie Darling

In *The Moon and Other Inventions*, Kristina Marie Darling has constructed a one-sixteenth scale palace of enchanted footnotes. She writes, “Behind a little door the mechanism was turning and turning.” So too do the parts of this book turn and turn: readers will find themselves inside of a dream that is also a three- (or four- or five-) dimensional space. Emily Dickinson opens a door to find Alice Liddell, who opens a door to find Lorine Niedecker. Who could resist such knobs and dials and keys?

—Angela Sorby, author of *Bird Skin Coat*

Darling creates a lattice of explicitly feminine apperception around the works of Joseph Cornell. The result is a haunting parasciption, of a piece with Cornell's metaphysical idiom while substantially Othering any sustained encounter with his work.

—G.C. Waldrep, author of *Goldbeater's Skin*

The fine poems of Kristina Marie Darling embrace the complexities of telemetry: how to read the stars and the heart, peregrinations, P and R waves, a universe implied. Underneath the text, underneath narrative, Darling calculates what matters, and the matter of a woman endeavoring to build a perfect, delicate machine. Would that be a poem? A telescope? A metaphor? All of the above.

—Alan Michael Parker, author of *Long Division*

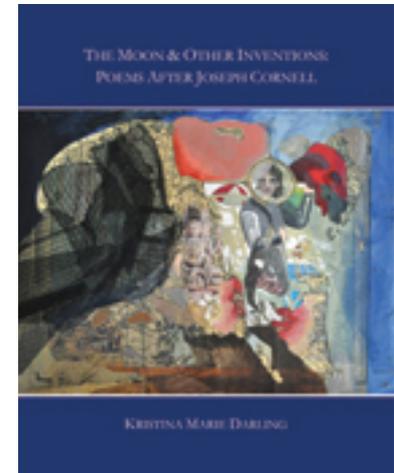
Kristina Marie Darling is the author of five books of poetry and the editor of a forthcoming anthology, narrative (dis)continuities: prose experiments by younger american writers (Moria Books, 2012). She has been awarded fellowships from Yaddo, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Ragdale Foundation, as well as grants from the Kittredge Fund and the Elizabeth George Foundation. Her poems and essays appear in *The Gettysburg Review*, *New Letters*, *Third Coast*, and *Verse Daily*. A graduate of Washington University and the University of Missouri, Kristina is currently working toward a Ph.D. in Poetics at SUNY-Buffalo.

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CHAPTER ONE:
A HISTORY OF INVENTIONS

¹. An unspecified type of steel dial, most often used as an ornament.

². She placed the apparatus beneath her bedroom window. The little gears turning as the moon ascended a marble staircase.

³. When asked, she would describe the machine's faithfulness. The switch turned only for her. And now the coldest light shining from beneath her wooden doorframe.

⁴. *Aperture.*

†1. An opening, such a hole, gap, or slit.

‡2. A space within an optical instrument, which limits the amount of light passing through a lens and onto a mirror.

⁵ A late eighteenth-century stage play, in which a woman crawls into the hollow shaft of a telescope. The stage directions call for "faint music." Also the sound of "silk rustling" and "a tiny door coming unhinged."

⁶ Nights like this she flipped a little golden switch. That was when the rooms would open up before her.

⁷ Her ruined correspondence indicates exactly where she would have gathered these dead lilies and perfume bottles.

⁸. One of the lesser known experiments, in which scientists were fascinated with the involuntary movements of the female heart.

⁹. As one would expect, the levers produced an occasional shock. Despite the strength of these electrical currents, she claimed that the machine still left her cold.

