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Nicole Cooley Explores Mothers and Daughters in New Collection
*LSU Press to Publish *Girl after Girl after Girl in September**

Baton Rouge—The poems in *Girl after Girl after Girl*, to be published by LSU Press celebrate the connections between mothers and daughters from generation to generation. Through an acknowledgment of mothers' unconditional love, the memories evoked by physical objects, and the stories mothers pass down, these poems explore the common thread that stretches backward and forward, running through the lives of women and binding them together in an unbroken chain of years.

Posture Board, England, 1820

Nothing drowns out my girl's crying,
nothing quits the pinch in my throat,
fist thudding in my chest at my child's grief.

—This board has been inscribed with the names of five
children who have used it—
Sally, Gatie, Tiny, Ada and Maud—

My girl's sobbing settles white cotton
over every table and chair,
as we leave the house.

—The board, positioned behind the back of the girl and
held in place
by her arms, pulled the shoulders back—

On the way to the car, she whispers,
Don't make me go—
her fingers twist my hair, her fingers itch my skin.

I force her into her car seat,
lock plastic straps across her chest, while
her arms wind tight around my neck.

Nicole Cooley is the author of *Breach* (2010), *Milk Dress* (2010), *The Afflicted Girls* (2004), and *Resurrection* (1996). She directs the MFA Program in Creative Writing and Literary Translation at Queens College—CUNY, where she is professor of English.

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Poetry

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