



SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS

founded in 1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens and the largest source of scholarships for young artists and writers in the U.S.

Peter S. Beagle

*Peter S. Beagle received his Scholastic Art & Writing Award in 1955 for this poem. He is an American fantasy author, novelist, and screenplay writer best known for his book *The Last Unicorn*.*

Thais' Lullaby

By PETER S. BEAGLE

Sleep, pretty daughter, the moon is behind you.
Soft-footed evening has vanquished the day.
Your lovers, the moonbeams, are coming to find you.
Nothing but scorn for your mother have they.
Sleep, pretty daughter, with no man beside you,
Jealous of stars that are kissing your brow.
None, when you walk in the street, shall deride you
Sleep, pretty daughter, for I know not how.

Sleep, pretty daughter, but hark to my warning...
Stay thou a maiden—be simple and sweet.
Never discover the smell of morning,
Or the touch of the grass on your little bare feet.
Marry a lord who is rich beyond measure,
Learn that the wise dog is safe in his yard—
Then they will give you the moon for your pleasure.
Sleep, pretty daughter—your mother keeps guard.