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(front)

TRP: The University Press of SHSU (Texas Review Press)

THE FAMILIAR

Sarah Kain Gutowski

***"The feminists lied, she tells me.
They said we could do everything /
we wanted. Anything, I correct her."***

A book-length narrative in poems, *The Familiar* explores female mid-life existential crisis through two characters, the Ordinary Self and the Extraordinary Self, who send a single household into chaos as they vacillate between the siren call of ambition, the necessity of the workplace, and responsibility to love and family. Engaging with philosophy and pop culture, bouncing between high and low diction, *The Familiar* considers the effects of second and third-wave feminism through an absurdist and fabulist lens, wrestling with the notion women can truly "have it all."



*Available for Print, Radio, and Podcast
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Workshop Facilitation*

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Sarah Kain Gutowski is the author of *Fabulous Beast*, winner of the 14th annual National Indies Excellence Award for Poetry and a 2019 Foreword Indies Finalist. With interdisciplinary artist Meredith Starr, she is co-creator of *Every Second Feels Like Theft*, a conversation in cyanotypes and poetry, and *It's All Too Much*, a limited edition audio project. Her poems have appeared in *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, and *The Southern Review*, and her criticism has been published by *Colorado Review*, *Calyx*, and *New York Journal of Books*.

Early Praise for **THE FAMILIAR** by Sarah Kain Gutowski

"Gutowski's poems are breathtakingly smart — controlled, precise and exquisite as diamonds — and yet they vibrate dangerously from within, as if anticipating, as she writes in one poem, "so much broken glass." —Amber Sparks, author of *And I Do Not Forgive You*

"I know I'm not the only one who will be grateful for Sarah Kain Gutowski's *The Familiar*. I know I'm not the only one who will feel less alone after reading these poems." —Jason Schneiderman, author of *Hold Me Tight*

"Gutowski leads the reader to an unexpected liberation that made me laugh out loud, a rare pleasure in poetry. *The Familiar* is brilliant, witty, and unafraid to relentlessly question the sacred territory of family responsibility." —Jessica Cuello, author of *Liar* and *Yours, Creature*

"*The Familiar* resists parable and acknowledges the inevitably multifaceted nature of selfhood, what is expected of women, and what women expect of themselves. Fierce. Vulnerable. Entertaining."

— Cynthia Marie Hoffman,
author of *Exploding Head*

"Sarah Gutowski's *The Familiar* exists as part haunting, part conjuration, and part poetic experiment in which the intricacies and intimacies of a poet's intertwined selves are revealed in triplicate."

—Matt Schumacher,
author of *Ghost Town Odes*

