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# 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."



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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*.