

GOOP BOOK CLUB

A Reading Guide for *What Kind of Woman* by Kate Baer

What Kind of Woman is the kind of book you screenshot, send to your text chain, need to talk about. We're ready to discuss: Join our book club [Facebook group](#).

1. When's the last time you read poetry? Did reading Baer's collection feel similar to or different from other experiences you've had with poetry?
2. The first part of the book explores womanhood and dating, the second part takes up marriage and what it means to be a partner, and the final part is about motherhood. Which part resonated with you most?
3. Throughout the collection, Baer plays with the advice that is often dispensed to women. (See "Advice for Former Selves" on page 3, "Like a Wife" on page 33, "For the Advice Cards at Bridal Showers" on page 35, and "For the Advice Cards at Baby Showers" on page 62.) Which piece of advice stuck out to you? What's been the most memorable or ridiculous piece of advice you've received in your own life?
4. In "Moon Song," Baer writes, "You may be a woman of / commotion and quiet. Magic and brain." What's the allure of this paradox?
5. Compare the commentary in "Female Candidate" (page 14) and "Fat Girl" (page 17).
6. Who did "Things My Girlfriends Teach Me" (page 19) remind you of? What have you learned from your girlfriends?
7. Several poems in the second section of the book explore the space between partners, the disconnect between the vision of a marriage and the reality of a marriage, and the difference between what one says and what one means. Look back at "Curveball" (page 34) and "Missed Connections" (page 44), for example. What did these poems bring up for you?
8. Different poems in the collection trigger different senses. Could you hear the sound in "Crescendo" (page 48)?

9. How did you like the answer to “Can I have it all?” (page 69)? True?
10. Poems in the third part of the book ask, what does it mean to be a good mother? How do you think Baer defines and redefines this? How would you?
11. What’s the distinction between “you’re stronger that you know” and “you’re stronger than you know” (page 83)?
12. Another phrase that Baer subverts comes on page 87: “getting her body back.” Did this poem (or others) reframe the way you think of your body or the language we use to describe a body?
13. Did the author’s note (page 91) make you laugh?
14. Have you seen Baer’s “blackout poems” on Instagram? (They are genius responses to idiotic messages she receives. She crafts poems out of a DM using only words from the DM.) Which is your favorite?