

Short Bio:

Sara Zarr is the acclaimed author of nine novels for young readers, including *A Song Called Home*, *Gem & Dixie*, and *How to Save a Life*. She's also the host of This Creative Life with Sara Zarr and the author of a companion book to the podcast. She's a National Book Award finalist and two-time Utah Book Award winner, and is currently on faculty at the Lesley University Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing. She divides her time between Utah and California.

Long Bio:

Sara Zarr is the acclaimed author of eleven books, including nine novels for young readers. Her most recent novels are *A Song Called Home* (2022) and *Goodbye from Nowhere* (2020). She's a National Book Award finalist and two-time Utah Book Award winner, and her books have been variously named to annual best books lists of the American Library Association, Kirkus, Publisher's Weekly, School Library Journal, the Guardian, the International Reading Association, the New York Public Library, and Los Angeles Public Library. They have been translated into many languages. In 2017, her first novel, *Story of a Girl*, was made into a movie directed by Kyra Sedgwick, who was nominated for a Director's Guild award.

In 2010, Sara served as a judge for the National Book Award. In 2014, she was named a MacDowell Fellow. She has written essays, creative nonfiction, and short fiction for various journals as well as for several anthologies. Her favorite topics include the intersection of faith and art, growing up in religion, family dysfunction, and living with chronic illness. Sara is also the host and producer of the podcast This Creative Life, and in 2022 published a companion book to the podcast. Her screenplay adaptation of her third book, *Once Was Lost*, was a finalist for the 2018 Writers Lab, sponsored by IRIS and NY Women in Film and Television.

Sara lives primarily in Utah, but is often also found in her home state of California. She's currently on faculty at the Lesley University Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing.

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