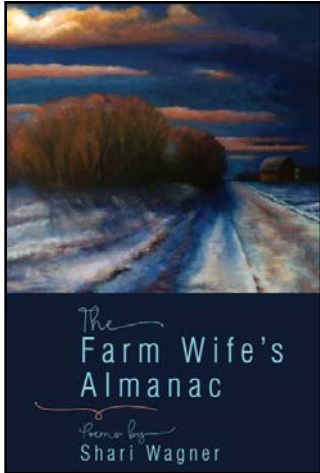


 **THE FARM WIFE'S ALMANAC**

Poetry by **Shari Wagner**

DreamSeeker Poetry Series 16



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Pages: 116
Format: 5.5 x 8.5 trade paper
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Summary: As she contends with forces that threaten to uproot what she loves, the farm wife emerges as a prophetic voice from America's heartland, embracing a concept of community that includes the dead and the living, neighbors and strangers, cultivated fields and ditches thick with milkweed.

"The farm wife names children after beloved cows, plays rook, and wants to be buried in a root cellar. In poem after poem we see what might appear to be a sheltered, insular life in its true and astonishing expansiveness. These are poems of both intensity and calm beauty, transformative in their vision of the holiness in the everyday."

—*Jill Peláez Baumgaertner, Author, What Cannot Be Fixed; Poetry Editor, The Christian Century; Professor Emerita of English, Wheaton College*

"Wagner gently lifts the life of a farm wife into view, then dazzles the reader with insights that surprise and enlarge, drawing us into the history of both restriction and wonder, so that we too can imagine 'releasing the parachutes of milkweed' for the return of 'whirling monarchs so thick they block the sun.'"

—*Jean Janzen, Author, What the Body Knows*

"'Iva's tongue was honey-sweet and stung like a bee,' the poet writes, an apt description of Wagner's own poetic gifts, on full display in *The Farm Wife's Almanac*. Rich in pathos and humor, this is a collection that embodies the culture from which it was birthed, a true celebration of living close to the land."

—*Todd Davis, Author, Native Species and Winterkill*

Market: Anyone interested in poems prophetic and inspiring from a poet laureate who passionately tells of the losses and gifts of life as viewed through the prism of farming.

Shelving: Poetry; Anabaptist-Mennonite literature. BISAC: Poetry; RTM: 640 Poetry

The Author



Shari Wagner was Indiana Poet Laureate 2016-2017 and is the author of two books of poems: *The Harmonist at Nightfall: Poems of Indiana* and *Evening Chore*. She contributed as co-author to the writing of Gerald L. Miller's memoir, *A Hundred Camels*. Her poems have appeared in many magazines, including *North American Review*, *Shenandoah*, *The Christian Century*, *The Writer's Almanac*, and *American Life in Poetry*. She teaches for the Indiana Writers Center; Indiana University-Purdue University's Religion, Spirituality and the Arts Seminar; and Bethany Theological Seminary's School of Religion's Theopoetics program.

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