THE UMBILICAL UNIVERSE

SHARON WHITEHILL

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"With candor, with honesty, sometimes with regret, but always with a rich, musical language, Whitehall shows us how "we take and we get/ what we need for the moment/ if only an image, a shadow/ of love." -Dorothy Brooks, author of four poetry collections, including SUBSOIL PLOWING

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Through the prism of personal crises, Whitehill's poems mirror the flawed human search for connection. At the core of this collection are poems about a mother and her daughters and the poet's clash of competing realities—obligation to children versus the impulse to self-actualization.

"The book is my testament to the redeeming nature of love," the poet says. "Though my life has been rich in achievements and human relations, my one great regret is having fallen so short of being the mother I wanted to be. But writing the poems has been restorative, therapeutic. I didn't expect that, but it feels significant."

## **ABOUT SHARON WHITEHILL**



A retired professor of English at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, Sharon Whitehill now lives and writes in Port Charlotte, Florida. Her publications include two scholarly biographies, *The Life and Work of Mary O'Hara, Author of My Friend Flicka* (Edwin Mellen Press: 1995) and Frances Gillmor, Aztec and Navajo Folklorist (Edwin Mellen Press: 2005). Whitehall has also published a children's book, *The Lizard Wizard* (Xlibris: 2003) and two memoirs: *On the Trail of Flicka's Friend* (Fithian Press: 1995) and *Sweet.Bitter.Sweet* (BookBroker Publishers of Florida: 2016). She lives with her husband of twenty-one years, Jim Meloy, a former beekeeper and jet engine mechanic.

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