

GLENN HOLLOWAY
913 E. Bailey Road
Naperville, IL 60565

THE BEEKEEPER SPEAKS OF LOVE
(after Howard Nemerov)

Each year another season's worth of stings
makes changes in the blood, and maybe cures
arthritis. But the tyranny of spring's
resurgent hunger grows. Each year the cores
produce new sweetness, fuel for endemic freeze,
enough to prime a whisper, an indifferent pulse.
Perhaps inside my swarming dark the bees
invest me with their will and it compels
my life, my declaration: You are mine.
The venom humming in my veins-- salvation.
Your angry barbs' deposits turn benign
beneath this worker's stores of resignation.
And though my vow incurs a painful price,
immunity is nature's own device.

--Glenna Holloway