

GLENN HOLLOWAY
913 E. Bailey Road
Naperville, IL 60565

THE BEEKEEPER SPEAKS OF LOVE

Each passing year the job's collective stings
Make changes in the blood, and maybe cure
Arthritic knees. But not the ache of spring's
Resurgent hunger. The bony hive's deep core
Saves sugared warmth against an early freeze,
Enough to prime a long-indifferent pulse.
In fields inside my swarming dark the bees
Impart their simple will and it compels
My life, my declaration: you are mine.
The venom humming in my veins-- salvation.
The angry barbs' deposits turn benign
Beneath the worker's stores of resignation.
And though my vow exacts a painful price,
Immunity is nature's own device.