



1993

## Fireflies

William Powley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/inscape>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Powley, William (1993) "Fireflies," *Inscape*: Vol. 13 : No. 1 , Article 20.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/inscape/vol13/iss1/20>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Inscape* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

# Fireflies

---

by William Powley

At dusk just off I-80  
southwest of Des Moines  
fireflies awake over  
a cornfield. I climb  
between the fence and the grass  
into a soft breeze  
watching how the bright  
insects braid the air,  
lighting above the tassels.

How they mix each other's blood!  
Now all at once they  
stop as if they had  
heard my steps or thoughts,  
each gliding on a line of breath.  
At a twitch of my left hand  
one flickers the air  
full with a delicate light  
from another world.