

Doug Holder

Complaints

A lovely necklace
Excuse me while I
Put my head in the oven.

Tea ceremony
Delicate, tapered fingers
Try a corned beef on pumpernickel.

A long pilgrimage
Navigating the twisted
Lines,
We fill our void
Market Basket.

Rich people
At dinner
There is no
Need to put
Dinner rolls
In your
Pocketbook.

Mantra of recluse
They never call
They never write.

You are a writer?
You can always
Fall back on
Teaching.

Doug Holder is the founder of the Ibbetson Street Press. His latest collection of poetry is *The Essential Doug Holder...New and Selected Poems*. Holder recently judged the Frank O'Hara Poetry Contest for the Worcester County Poetry Association.