

MEGAN HARTFORD

A Warning

Honey, those with full depth
are strong and good.
Some ripen slowly.
Those of ample ripeness
are left standing.

However, the stingy man
just eyes longingly,
swarming and pilfering.

Be careful, honey.

ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

“A Warning” was created from Anna Botsford Comstock’s *How to Keep Bees* (1905). About the poem and the process of composing it, Megan Hartford writes:

I chose Chapter 10 of *How to Keep Bees* at random. Once I dive into a text to create a found poem, one parameter I give myself is to keep the words in the order in which they appear in the source material. I begin, naturally, at the beginning of the piece, scanning through to find words and phrases that stand out to me and pairing them with other words or phrases that flow together to begin to form a story or theme. In this particular piece, I knew that I wanted to take the word *honey* and use it as a way to address the reader, and from there, gradually, the story emerged as I moved through the source material, gathering bits and pieces until the poem/story felt complete. To me, it feels like thrift shopping: scavenging through crowded racks to find the hidden gems into which I can breathe new life.

Megan Hartford lives in Manhattan, Kansas, and can be found online at liminal-space.org. Her work has also appeared in *The Sun*.

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