

WINSTON PLOWES

HOW TO HIVE A SWARM

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of flying bees and a consequent settling.

ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

“HOW TO HIVE A SWARM” was created from Anna Botsford Comstock’s *How to Keep Bees* (1905). About the poem and the process of composing it, Winston Plowes writes:

Words have been digitally whited out from a section of Chapter VI of Anna Botsford Comstock’s book, “The Swarming of Bees,” section 3, “How to Hive a Swarm,” pages 66-67. I am often attracted by the shapes and patterns that words, letters and punctuation make on the page and here by leaving only the punctuation for the vast part of the page hope to capture the movement of the swarm and maybe use the marks that normally make us pause or stop to energise the remaining text. I had this concept in mind before finding an appropriate passage in the book.

Winston Plowes is the author of *Telephones, Love Hearts & Jellyfish* (Electric Press 2016) and *First of All, You Wrote My Name* (forthcoming from Stairwell Books 2021). He co-authored *Tales from the Tachograph* with Gaia Holmes (Calder Valley Poetry 2017). His work has also appeared in *Lahar Berlin*, *Shaking the Sheets Magazine*, *Dreich*, *Paper Nations*, *Poetry Wivenhoe*, and elsewhere. His community poetry activities include tutoring for the Over 50s Creative Writing Group at the Square Chapel Centre for the Arts and Calderdale Industrial Museum, serving as a poet in residence for primary schools in Elland, West Yorkshire, and sharing his Spoke~n~Word Random Poetry Generating Bicycle at the Glastonbury Festival for the Performing Arts. He lives in Calderdale, UK, and can be found online at winstonplowes.co.uk.

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