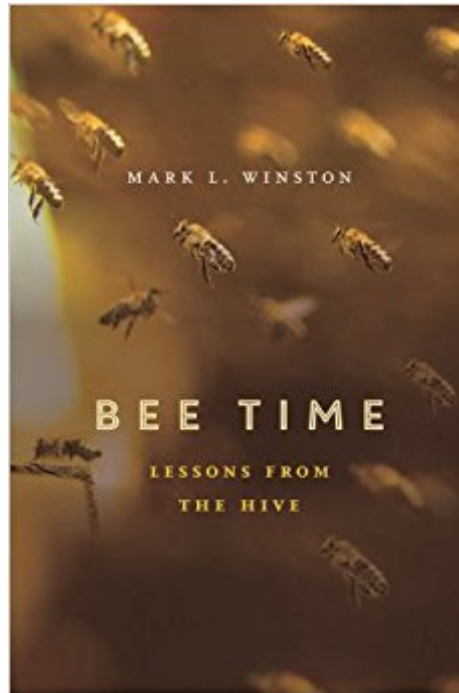




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# Bee Time: Lessons From The Hive



## Synopsis

Being among bees is a full-body experience, Mark Winston writes. From the low hum of tens of thousands of insects and the pungent smell of honey and beeswax, to the sight of workers flying back and forth between flowers and the hive. The experience of an apiary slows our sense of time, heightens our awareness, and inspires awe. *Bee Time* presents Winston's reflections on three decades spent studying these creatures, and on the lessons they can teach about how humans might better interact with one another and the natural world. Like us, honeybees represent a pinnacle of animal sociality. How they submerge individual needs into the colony collective provides a lens through which to ponder human societies. Winston explains how bees process information, structure work, and communicate, and examines how corporate boardrooms are using bee societies as a model to improve collaboration. He investigates how bees have altered our understanding of agricultural ecosystems and how urban planners are looking to bees in designing more nature-friendly cities. The relationship between bees and people has not always been benign. Bee populations are diminishing due to human impact, and we cannot afford to ignore what the demise of bees tells us about our own tenuous affiliation with nature. Toxic interactions between pesticides and bee diseases have been particularly harmful, foreshadowing similar effects of pesticides on human health. There is much to learn from bees in how they respond to these challenges. In sustaining their societies, bees teach us ways to sustain our own.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this personal and scientific journey into the history we share with bees, [Winston] ranges over neonicotinoid pesticides and colony collapse, the control of African "killer" bees and more. The charismatic social insects emerge as both icons of societal cohesion and symbols of nature's paradoxically mingled power and fragility. (Barbara Kiser Nature 2014-10-30)

[Winston] writes lovingly of the rhythms and quiddities of the apiary. In a highly personal style, Winston steps between reportage, scientific exactitude and a deep, poetically expressed love of bees, beekeeping and the cultural forms that bees inspire. People and bees have been working together for millennia – a synergy that Winston, sensitized by his work as a communications specialist, clearly feels brings out the best and the worst in humanity. His take on the situation makes Bee Time an insightful delight. (Adrian Barnett New Scientist 2014-10-18)

Winston wants to acquaint his readers with the fascinating complexity of the bee world, and he also wants to alert readers to the fact that the bee world is drastically endangered. He brings to this hybrid task a very smooth ability to simplify the complex bee-literature he's obviously mastered, providing engaging glimpses into the world of the hive – and usually presenting them in parallel context of the human world. Considering the enormous ripple-effects that would happen in the wake of the disappearance of these key pollinators, Winston's wake-up call takes on an urgency that's belied by its friendly, approachable tone. That clarion call makes Bee Time an important book, even if you by chance suffer from a touch of apiphobia. (Steve Donoghue Open Letters Monthly 2014-11-01)

[Winston] presents a stark picture of how much we expect from, and rely on, bees. (Kristin Treen Literary Review 2014-11-01)

Thoughtful and eloquent – Winston is an inspired cross-pollinator, who uses the full-body experience of being with bees to draw lessons for human hives. (Sarah Murdoch Toronto Star 2014-11-01)

Like the beekeeper he is, paying careful attention to what's going on in his colonies, Winston has done a fine job with this book. Bee Time is beautifully written and rich in the detail, evoking emotions without being overly maudlin. (Jeff Lee Vancouver Sun 2014-12-19)

[Winston's] lyricism inspires awe of these necessary insects. (Temma Ehrenfeld Weekly Standard 2014-09-08)

A recap of what's been going on in beekeeping over the past 10 years or so – Winston has left no hive unturned in this work, documenting all the good, and the bad that has occurred. There are indeed lessons to learn from a bee hive. This work will share some of them with you. (Kim Flottum Bee Culture 2014-11-01)

Winston combines beekeeping work/research, philosophical musings, and his personal memories in this enjoyable book. (J. M. Gonzalez Choice 2015-03-01)

Bee Time is a unique book: in turn a touching memoir, a warm paean to the honey bees that have fueled Winston's

impressive scientific career, and an insightful analysis of some of the serious environmental problems facing us today. (Gene E. Robinson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) No other book celebrates the long relationship between humans and honeybees as powerfully, thoughtfully, and enchantingly as this one. Written in lyrical prose, *Bee Time* is a delightful and inspiring read. (Thomas D. Seeley, author of *Honeybee Democracy*) Mark Winston has spent 30 years studying and working with bees. His book is a passionate celebration of bees, apiaries and honey, as well as a calmly reasoned critique of industrialized farming and a plea to halt the dramatic decline in bee numbers. A wonderfully rich insight into the imperiled world of the bee. (P. D. Smith *The Guardian* 2016-10-29)

Mark L. Winston is Professor and Senior Fellow at Simon Fraser University's Centre for Dialogue and Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Although there are many bee books out there, and, as a beekeeper, I've read many of them, "*Bee Time*" stands out among them. Mark Winston has a deep understanding of the essence of our relationship with the bees. He writes with a reverence and perspective that could only come from many years of exposure to the issues now facing the bees and the human race. I could go on, but suffice to say that this book was a page-turner for me. Many thanks to Mark for his sincere book!

This book was largely well-written and clear. I very much liked Winston's depiction of the history and ecology of bees. I also think he makes a good point about bees being the canaries in the mine. Where the author goes astray, in my opinion, is in his trying to ride that last point too long. It felt as if he was repeating because he needed to make a longer book.

I found it preachy. Not as much about bees as I was expecting.

Interesting perspectives on both honey bee and human communications! Lovely descriptions of the zen state a beekeeper sinks into when visiting the hive.

Much good information on bee habits and the natural resources to support those habits-leaves much new material to be flushed out in future writings by other experts, especially in the area of yields of honey per hive

Mark Winston is a wise man. His wisdom seems to come from his decades working with bees, his willingness to bring in perspectives from beyond science, his ability to inspire other people, and his openness to dialogue. It is fitting that he was chosen to lead Simon Fraser University's Centre for Dialogue here in Vancouver. Bee time is time as bee keepers experience it in the apiary. It is time slowed down, where being calm, moving slowly, keeping all your senses and intelligence open is the key to not getting stung and to understanding how your bees are doing. The book covers many important topics from colony collapse disorder to urban bee keeping and the role of feral bees in agriculture. It ends by showing how he applies the lessons from a life spent with and studying bees and with bee people has prepared him for leading dialogues on the most serious problems facing cities and civilizations today. I am buying more copies of this book and giving them to people on my own teams, to people I work with, and to drop off for sharing through our local book exchange in Kitsilano. I will also spend a lot more time observing the bees in our garden and changing what we plant. I will not be buying anymore honey from packagers, instead I will be looking for honey from a beekeeper whose name I can find out and whose hives I can visit. Vancouver is lucky to have such a person.

The book was very well written and I was able to get a much better idea of how important honey bees are to our food chain.

This book is a great read, like our society, the honeybees are dealing with major problems.

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