

The Balance of Winter

Men stand on shingles
shoveling snow from roof-tops,
ankles angled to anchor
bodies against gravity. Giving
birth to breath against grey winter
skies, shovels in gloves shaping
drifts below. Gutter edge

icy, dried leaves locked
in emulsion, molded by winter
water into orbits
or boundaries where when set
feet slip. A shovel

sliding
solitary, consumed
in a cloud bank below.

Ben Hynes