

I Was Here

BY ROB COOK

A few random turns found me
driving along a winding little lane
past falling waters
and falling leaves

to a small turnout
near a dilapidated house
and a sign that said

DANGER KEEP OUT

Naturally I had to take a look
Weeds covered the walkway
Trees crowded the walls
Moss coated them green

I picked my way up
what was left of the stairs
around rotted holes in the porch
to a door half off its hinges

Hard to imagine
it was new once
but then again
so was I

In the kitchen I found
a doorjamb scrawled with names
Joey Lisa Bobby Donna
and by each a line and a year

I added my own to the list
though it wasn't my birthday
no cake
no candles

just the scent of decaying wood
the chill of autumn air and
an urge to leave a mark
some sign I was here