

# Other Rooms and Other Houses

*by* Gary Hardaway

*for Emily*

Did you ever feel  
a moment of importance?  
Your self-effacement hid  
so much of you

until you died and the full  
inked legacy shown in light  
of other rooms and other houses.  
Before, there were the few attempts

we know of when you traveled,  
out beyond the Amherst  
boundaries, in posted proxy,  
only to be altered by the day

and its conventions. Know  
that editors remain the same  
wherever they might find  
themselves. Even friends,

intending only the best  
for the you you left behind,  
were faithless, too. It took  
a distant stranger, born

long after you were buried,  
to set you right before us

who find a thousand moments of importance,  
daily, in the gifts you laid behind.

