

Snake

Today the pup found his way into the gully.
A young pup built of two small breeds
marching up the damp bed, all hair
and cockiness. I thought 'Snake' and
called him but he only comes sometimes
by now. So: very small
marching up the gully floor, so very small
between walls of fern and dangling creeper
smelling the shadows and learning. Like kids,
you have to let them grey your hair
or else they never really grow
up. Of course there mostly isn't
any snake and today there
wasn't one as well. In his own time he came
up out frisking his tail-end,
cocky and hairy and damp. If he had
grown I couldn't see it.