The Hidden Lessons of This Art

Can you—just by reading—tell that when
I sat down late last night to finally write
these lines I did so with a fountain pen
in an old wooden chair by candlelight?

The clues exist within the words, I think.
Consider the slant of my handwriting;
the way this textured paper drinks the ink;
the spitting candle's fitful lighting

flickering the darkness, casting there
a shadow of my hand upon the wall;
even the rickety creaking of this chair.
Pause for a single breath and they all

come back to now, the night I tried
to learn the hidden lesson of this art:
Everything without lives as well inside—
the creaking, ink, the candle, and the dark.

from *Not Beyond Repair*

Photo Credit: Peter Dressel

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