



1984

## I Am

Sarabeth Rayner

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I  
AM

a snake  
an amphibious  
creature  
by nature  
a patron  
of night  
by habit  
I slip  
(not slither)  
through  
the grass  
more silent  
than air  
until a  
rustle  
ripple  
or rivet  
captures  
my  
attention  
and I  
slowly  
cunningly  
painstakingly  
ease into  
the water  
causing  
neither  
wobble  
nor wave  
then gather  
myself  
building  
power  
to strike  
I am  
ruler of  
these  
shoreline  
parts  
b  
e  
w  
a  
r  
e

Sarabeth Rayner