

SHIMMER

Animated commas
amphibious sperm
a slurry of tadpoles
shimmy and nudge
some already with hind legs
soon to haul themselves from the pond—
 a repetition of that Middle Devonian
 movement from sea to sand—
to live out spadefoot lives in the desert.

I want to shimmer just below the surface.
I want to be transformed.
I want to swim and swim
and then, without even trying,
I want to sprout legs and
lose that tail that is pulling me down.
I want to drag myself from the deep.

by Janet Ruth

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