

*Anaconda*

water-hose of a reptile  
bellying your way  
through muck-inhabited

canal  
swell each time you  
swallow

donkey  
or pig  
be barrel

and wrap  
and coil  
and wrap

then bloated  
as a tube  
and who will rule

but the sticks  
and the shouts  
and the imminence

of a disembowelled  
death.

CYRIL DABYDEEN