

## BALLAD OF THE SKINK

Ash Aldridge

Salted waves breach rock  
Reaching high for the moon  
You scamper into another night  
Among the cackles of feathers on high  
And superb croaks in the ponds  
Listening for the flicker of adder's tongue  
As your ancestors did before

Kites and keets caw and coo on high  
Telling tales of a land beyond the turtled reefs  
Lands your mothers have never seen  
Where no cousins await your pilgrimage  
In annual embrace and gossip  
They are all here  
Everything you could ever know is here

But why would you weep for unseen land  
What could it compare to your castles of granite and kapok  
Your riches of lolly and vine  
This empire is yours  
By right and by blood in your name  
The beast only these magnetic sands have known  
The magnificent *sadlieri*