**This Is A Photograph Of Me**

**By Margaret Atwood**

It was taken some time ago.
At first it seems to be
a smeared
print: blurred lines and grey flecks
blended with the paper; then, as you scan
it, you see in the left-hand corner
a thing that is like a branch: part of a tree
(balsam or spruce) emerging
and, to the right, halfway up
what ought to be a gentle
slope, a small frame house. In the background there is a lake,
and beyond that, some low hills. (The photograph was taken
the day after I drowned. I am in the lake, in the [center](http://www.eliteskills.com/c/12002)
of the picture, just under the surface. It is difficult to say where
precisely, or to say
how large or small I am:
the effect of water
on light is a distortion but if you look long enough,
eventually
you will be able to see me.)