

## Somewhere in the Silence

I hide in silence to dwell on the past.  
I am alone and  
welcome, if only to myself. Knowing  
others are having fun. It  
is not that I don't wish to participate. She  
said, 'focus on the sounds  
of friendly voices and laughter.' Like  
*that* makes it any easier. 'A  
decent conversation won't require a politician.'

What does it mean to be myself? I  
would like to think I know. I cannot  
tell you who I am, but I recall  
useless facts about nineties Hip-Hop and Sega Saturn . I  
tend to blurt them out to fill the awkward gaps. Am  
I about to? Afraid  
of looking like a loser, I  
take a deep breath. Do  
I risk social scorn or not?  
It's never the silence I remember.

- Lance Akins  
*after Rebecca Morgan Frank*