## John Mckernan

## SILENCE

Why do you want to sound like a drum? You used to sound like fresh coffee poured into a white cup on the patio. Why don't you smell like coffee any more? You used to smell like a slice of Catawba melon on a white plate. Where did your bongo-this bongo-that come from? Have you been dining on toothpaste? And what kind of drum sounds better being thumped by a tube of tooth paste? The time you bit me it was raining. I looked at the clock on the wall. 7:18. Those blue and red syllables hovered on my shoulder for days. For weeks