

A Friendly Conversation

I lean in close
Pensively gazing back over my shoulder
And out the door for the fifth time in as many minutes
I look relieved
Though the news that we are alone
Is not something new
And is still not completely reassuring
Whispered air slips past
My throat as it closes
Lips turned up into their corners
Deep and sharp and quaking as another laugh is stifled
They remind you of dimples
Even if they can't be seen over my blushing cheeks

The warm breeze of a heated conversation
Fills the room And slowly surrounds us
Like the dense fog
On a night in the harbor
Air thick with salt and vapor
A jet black night against an ink black sea
My words call out to you
A sing-song voice inviting you back in
Back into the conversation we've been having far longer
Than either cares to admit
Back to this in-between place, I beg you,
A quip and a new idea like the songs of a siren
Back into this stalemate of giggles and smiles
Neither able to make eye contact because we are too busy
Winking and batting eyelashes
Back into this comfortable take-turning
Of making the other squirm
And I might stay here for a while

Back to where I want to be
Smiling, laughing, and carefree
Forget about the rest of the world
And be present here, with me
This is the only place I can exist
And so I say to stay a few moments longer
Just a few more minutes, I insist

It's never silent or still
And if it were
Only then would it be wrong
Another crumb of truth falls from my lips
And lands between our feet
You and I both stare with sly smiles
And crooked heads to match
Questioning if we'd have both been better off
If I had chosen deceit
But I didn't want to lie to you or myself
And I've come to value honesty above all else
Sometimes we find it too easy to forget
That sharing secrets is not always a gift

The end is coming now
Like grains of sand in the wind
The conversation dissipates
And we retreat
We cast a glance over our shoulders as we part
And another after that, for good measure
But it will never manage to feel complete