

Erin McKeown, Didn't They?

You know my secret,
somebody told you didn't they?
I can tell by your voice.
and in the way
we are awkward,
mama, what did they say
when they told you my secret
anyway?

the old heave-ho holds the old
you don't know
what to do, what to say.
didn't they?

you in your half-shirt and lies,
me with the half-lit eyes.
what a pair,
who would ever suspect?
and could i care for polite
when, mama, i'm as frightened
as a girl with a secret could be.