

## speaking of voice (identity [politics])

Emma, I am speaking for you these days, these days they call such work *appropriation*. I am stealing your words before they are words, you make all the sounds for Chinese or Malay or German (or the language of men or the language of women), and I hear you in English explain the items in the kitchen in English: *This is the fridge, I say, a small room that becomes very cold in order to slow the process of decay* you feel the feathers of cold air and make that inward growling *unhnhnhnhnh unhnhnhnhnh* you make when you hold Mookie or the little cloth clown or the three of hearts in both hands; I say it is the sound of thinking, low in the throat, the mind before you pull the mind in and we forget its many voices and speak of ourselves as one thing only.

RICHARD HARRISON