

Vikram Seth

Voices

Voices in my head,
Chanting, "Kisses. Bread.
Prove yourself. Fight. Shove.
Look. Earn. Look for love,"

Drown a lesser voice.
Silent now of choice:
"Breathe in peace, and be
Still, for once, like me."

All You Who Sleep Tonight
Delhi, Viking 1990/1997:73