

My entire youth, I'd hidden...

My entire youth, I'd hidden
My shame
In a secret place
Of which I was
Perversely proud:
 A heart
Inside my heart.

God bless my high school
Librarian who first
Encouraged me
To write—thanks to her
It all became clear:

To suffer in silence
Is self-violence.

To speak your grief
Is partial relief.

To sing: that's the great thing.

Gregory Orr