

# Gim Gong's Mark

by Carrie Green

*All Chinese babies are born with a Mongolian spot—a temporary birthmark in the shape of a cabbage—at the small of their backs.*

—Lisa See, *On Gold Mountain*

It bloomed in the bone and blood of our family's dead  
and marked him with a hand  
he could not see.  
I touched his new skin,  
the blue-gray stain  
like spilled dust,  
then felt the hollow of my own spine.

Sometimes, in love,  
we suck ourselves into skin,  
kiss bruises into flesh.  
His small flower paled  
like plum blossoms against a white sky.  
I longed  
to purple his back  
again and again  
with my mouth.