**Inheritance**

**Samantha Madway**

Encouraged by some ancient heritage bred deep

in my bones, forever bent on becoming extinct,

I relive you every day.

I’ve come to evoke a cross between

satellite state and Stockholm Syndrome. And

you keep mutating and making land grabs

and looking more and more like a mirror.

It’s gone on so long, I fear you’ve been grafted

into my genes, altered my heredity so acutely that

I’ll never be able to revert back to the original, that

I’ll carry you always, gradually shedding myself as

I grow into just another form of proof that

dependence mates for life.