

AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

AT THE NATIVE

Marked at birth by a Mongolian blue spot,
mass of dark veins under thin skin, bruise-like
and only appearing on the backs of children
descended from Africa or Asia.
Next to my mother I am white, and
next to my father I am yellow.

But next to this Comanche woman
I am the spitting image of her daughter.
So when she asks about scholarships and schools,
when she wants to know if I'll attend
a college for native students, I think of the blue
born on her daughter's back. I let her look me
fully in my round face, let her think
I am part of something whole.

JENNY YANG CROPP