

Inherently

Clarence Ndabahwerize

Only now inherently yours,
But not at the beginning,
You forget that,
Sweep it under the carpet,
And saunter off whistling.
Our homes, our lands, your treaties.
You walked in,
Told us about you,
Your God,
Your cultures,
Your lands,
Your kings and queens,
Princes and princesses.
Then you decided to stay,
Because you could.
Would we ever have said no?
What if we would have let you?
Provided you listened to us.
But nevertheless it became yours,
Not ours,
And you forgot,
Sometimes you fought,
Other times you took,
Some days you stared,
Other days you laughed,
Then there were the days you scoffed.
Still apparently yours,
And not inherently ours,



Absence 3 by Sun Woo Baik

Cleverly but not so surely,
For now, but not forevermore.
And now we watch as that fear spreads through you,
The same fear we had,
Watching our cultures change,
Our lands look demographically different.
We see your fear misplaced,
Driven by anger,
A fear of the unknown,
Because it is new to you,
Unexpected.
You never would have known that this is what it felt like,
Even though it's not the same,
Because they don't have the same power as yours,
That obscene default power,
Unexplained by nature,
Only hampered by the fiery yellow sphere in the sky,
Bestowed upon so called fairness,
The power to rewrite everything in their favour,
Possibly now and forevermore.
We say,
You will be okay,
As our children will,
As your children will,
And their children,
On the day we will all finally be okay,
On the day of acknowledgement,
And reconciliation.