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Acceptance

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Acceptance

Cover Page Footnote

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Acceptance

I stand behind
these two women
One is my mother
One is my aunt
This is my legacy.

Each has had
a piece of her
womanhood taken away
by the knife
This is my legacy.

Each has lived with denial
One has emerged
victorious
One still lives in darkness
This is my legacy.

One had the energy
The other had the brains
One had the beauty
The other was beautiful
This is my legacy.

One has raised her daughter
to love
One has raised her daughter
to be loved
This is my legacy.

Both are trying to stop
aging
Both will be
unsuccessful
This is my legacy.

Both will walk with grace
in old age
through all the past
pain and heartache
This is my legacy.

Both were raised
by a woman with a bottle
Both wear this
like a badge of courage
This is my legacy.

Both use the power
of control
One uses it with force
One exerts it with timidity
This is my legacy.

Both love in their own ways
One wears love
openly and honestly
One only loves when loved
This is my legacy.

They each project
their own morals
They are both Christian
with two different Gods
This is my legacy.

I fear my legacy.

I will accept
bits and pieces
from this, my legacy.

I will take what
I need
from this, my legacy.

I promise to be different
I strive to be the same
I vow to teach them
what I will learn
I yearn to make the into
strong, confident women
because within them lies
my legacy.

Alycia Gregory