

## Cobalt Blue

The word takes me straight to that Christmas  
where I opened a chunky red jumper  
and then a Chemistry set.

By the end of the day  
I had learnt about the elements  
That burn with different coloured flames,  
that magnesium should not be looked at  
directly  
and that even if you wear an apron  
sulphuric acid will ruin your new  
red jumper with spots of satsuma stain.

Now, cobalt blue,  
I remember the way it sat  
on the small scoop of metal  
and the way the word felt to say,  
spatula, spatula, spatula.

The scent of methylated spirits,  
violet in a small glass burner  
and the rush of both flame and joy  
as the cotton wick soaks up the spirit  
and flames with possibility.



**Sarah L Dixon** lives in Huddersfield and tours as *The Quiet Compere*. Her second book, *Adding wax patterns to Wednesday* was released by Three Drops Press in November 2018. Sarah's inspiration comes from adventures with eight-year-old Frank. Visit her @ <http://thequietcompere.co.uk/>.



**The Pangolin Review, Issue 10, May 8, 2019**