

Patricia Walsh

Punishment Bleatings

No context for that smile, rubbished again,
wily social night shooting stars,
growing fastest over cinema, drama as such
switching heating off for the higher good,
needing a form to address myself in.

Bad form again, pursued from the irrelevant
packaged information booked in the early hours
starved for industry, working the motions
estranged lectures sunning short of jokes
flowering debacles on a hideous wall.

Watching statues melt, worshipped on cue
unpredictable texting mars the moment's peace
mortification rising through a box of tea bags
contesting inheritance through a magic 8-ball
lights through aperture closing in on whimsy.

Sighing out the black light, a hideous controversy
advised to avoid the best parties forever,
singing ones own lyrics all the way home,
married out of failure, as a family unit
not answering to anyone now, if ever.

Growing up on the kitchen table, poised for stiffness
not coming up for the local type of drinks
remembering difficulties in a further sway
tea or coffee, signature of the partial joke
needs to be read, out of sheer protection.

Patricia Walsh was born in the parish of Burnfort, Co Cork, and educated at University College Cork, graduating with an MA in Archaeology. Her poetry has been published in *Stony Thursday*; *Southword*; *Narrator International*; *Trouvaille Review*; *Strukturrus*; *Seventh Quarry*; *Vox Galvia*; *The Quarryman*; *Brickplight*, *The Literatus* and *Otherwise Engaged*. She published a chapbook, titled *Continuity Errors* in 2010 and a novel, *The Quest for Lost Éire*, in 2014. A further collection of poetry, titled *Outstanding Balance* is scheduled for publication in early 2021. She was the featured poet in the inaugural edition of *Fishbowl Magazine* and is a regular attendee at the O Bheal poetry night in Cork city.