

My Love is not Malaria

By Lauren Carruthers

Inspired by the works of Robert Burns

Oh my love would be a red blood cell,
Without parasites within:
Oh my love would be *Plasmodium*,
With nowt a resistance gene.

But as is sometimes, unfair in life,
Malaria took hold;
A mutation-ous K13 ACT arose,
Those infected now exposed.

Into thee brain, thy parasite spread,
Unconscious comatose;
Fever, fever, brightly burning!
Parasite nightmares swirling!

And farewell thee, for a while,
And farewell me, I won't smile:
Until a drug, destroys thy bug,
That renders me defenceless.