

Elements of the Day

SAMANTHA LEWIS

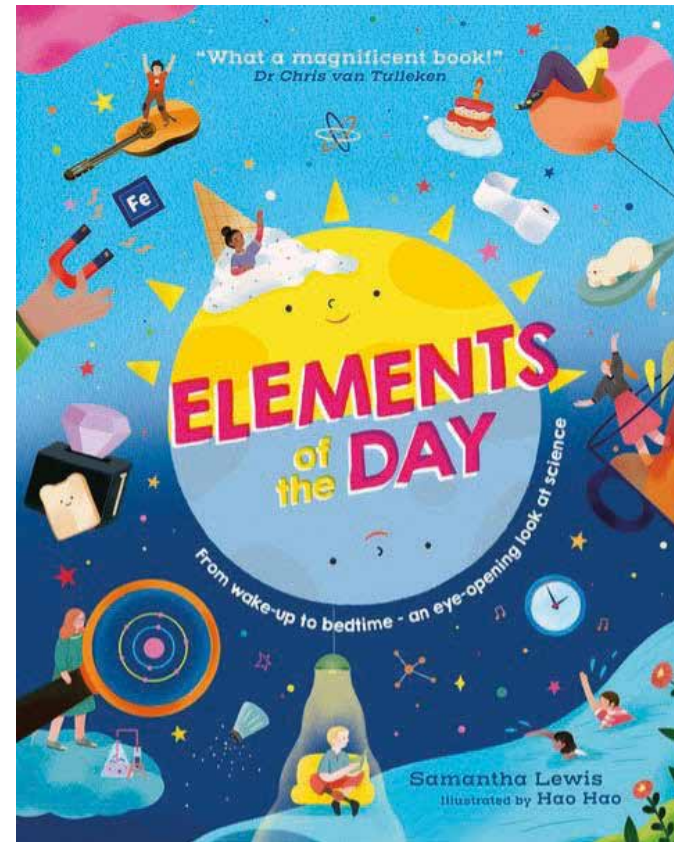
Even before my first Michaelmas term had ended, it was clear from my time in the Dyson Perrins Laboratory that a career at the bench wasn't for me. Talking about science, rather than doing it, was a much better fit.

After a short stint teaching, I moved into television, and have worked in the production and development of science films and podcasts ever since. It was through my work - rather than my education - that I came across the most fascinating stories from the history of science, and I often wished I'd heard them as a child. Aside from being entertaining, they were a wonderful window into the journey of scientific knowledge - replete with curiosity,



tenacity, and serendipity – and a reminder that there's always more to discover.

The idea of writing a book for children that could include some of my favourite science history tales had been percolating for a long time, but it wasn't until last year that I finally got the opportunity to do it. The result, *Elements of the Day* (published by Red Shed) will be released on 19 June 2025. Aimed at children aged 7+, it steps through a typical day to explore



some of the elements and compounds we encounter without a second thought, highlighting some of the fabulous stories behind their discoveries along the way.

It's been a dream come true for me to work on a book about Chemistry for young readers – and to see it come to life through Hao Hao's beautiful illustrations has been an utter joy. If I dare to dream further, it's that *Elements of the Day* might

inspire some budding young scientists. Perhaps they'll have more success in the lab than I ever did, and go on to write the next chapter in the grand story of scientific discovery...

Samantha Lewis (1998) is a freelance science producer/development producer for TV and radio, and a children's non-fiction author. *Elements of the Day* was selected as *The Times* Children's Book of the Week in May 2025.