

# CRAWLING TOWARDS SPRING

Hello everyone!

Allow me just a moment to scream into the ether.

I DID IT!!! I PUBLISHED MY SECOND BOOK!!!!

Just in case you missed the memo.

[The Summer We've Had](#) came out on January 14th, and I've been absolutely delighted to see everyone enjoying it. It's already blown the socks off [The Silent Chapter](#) (which I'm sure is feeling a bit neglected on my bookshelf, but hey ho, its day will come) and made me realise that all the hard work, the endless hours in front of the laptop wringing words out of my fatigued, foggy brain, all of it might be worth it.



## THE SILENT CHAPTER

*It was strange how  
a few pieces of paper  
and some ink could have  
the ability to change lives....*

KATHERINE BLAKEMAN

Not that I'm counting my chickens before they've hatched, of course. It's very early days, and I'll be the first to admit that they've been a rollercoaster, both for me and the people around me. (Apologies, if you're reading this.) But... I have hope. That it'll slowly grow and grow, and eventually be one of those old favourites you have on your shelves, or on your Kindles. I've had some good feedback - I'll go further into that down below - and I have some plans lined up throughout the year that I hope will bring some traffic and some sales!

One of those plans is coming very soon. Like, today. Today, February 1st, is the first day of Sapphic Fiction February: a series of interviews, posted on my blog, with popular Sapphic Fiction authors! I'm kicking it off with an interview with the legendary Jae,

which you can [read here](#). The full list of authors involved, and the schedule, is down below - available only to you, my newsletter subscribers. (Everyone else will have to wait to find out.)

All that's left for me to say right here is...

[The Summer We've Had](#) is available now!

Love, Kathy <3



## WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO IN JANUARY

On top of releasing a book, of course.

Um... well, I've done all the other stuff associated with releasing a book! Like reaching out to various publications, magazines, radio programmes, blogs, etcetera... and getting absolutely no response from most of them, and negative responses from the rest! Such is life as a self-published author - nobody wants to know! Remember I wrote a blog about the perils of self-publishing, months ago? Yeah, nothing's changed.

But who needs them? I have my own team around me! Like [S-Jay Hart](#), who blew my mind with this review on Goodreads...



January 19, 2023

### Chloe Keto Sapphic Romance

Astounded

Chloe Keto is a UK based Sapphic Romance author. Her work includes Ransom to Love, a story of lesbian and transgender love as well as self esteem.

You see, the thing:

er wanting to

leave. This happened here.

This book is different to anything I've ever read before. I was fortunate enough to be sent a copy by the wonderful author when I wasn't feeling great.

Katherine is a powerhouse of an author, who isn't afraid to touch on the subjects most of us run from. She holds mental health in the palms of her hands for all to see and reminds us how real it is. Shows us that despite the voices we have telling us we aren't worthy of love, we are.

She writes with wisdom. With certainty and with a fearlessness I wish I had. I'm in awe of her and she's young enough to be my kid. What a talent she has on her hands. I can't wait to watch her grow.

Trust me. This book is wonderful in all its merits. Just read it. Step out of your comfort zone and be ready to acknowledge it when you see yourself on the pages.

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ...

...and [Chloe Keto](#), who wrote on Amazon:

*"A total 5 star read that probably merits a reread as the characters are so deep and, Felicia especially, captured my heart so much. I will be VERY disappointed if Katherine doesn't bring her back in the future - not because there are loose ends (there aren't) but because she's one of these people that deserves more than one story to get to know. She was the kind of person I'd totally friend on Facebook as I'd want to get to know."*

And here's yet another review that made my heart warm - this time, from the wonderful Vita, on Goodreads!



January 23, 2023

What an outstanding book! Having had no clue about DID, I found this an engaging book. You cant help but love Heather,Daniella, Coral,Kylie and Autumn. But also feel sorry for Felicia. I learned so much from this incredible book. This is definitely a reread and worthy of 5 stars!

I played some wacky games on Twitter - one of which that I don't think has ever been attempted in this way before! Remember that teaser of *The Summer We've Had* I released (and subsequently kept banging on about on social media)? I... well, I put it through Google Translate. Several times. Into Kurdish, Hmong, French, Lithuanian, Ukranian, and nineteen other languages. And then back into English.

This is what the teaser reads normally...

*"It's... part and parcel of having depression, I guess."*

*Before she could comprehend the fact that she'd revealed her diagnosis, Felicia had flung her arms around her and was hugging her hard. "Oh, Christ, I'm sorry," she whispered, stroking Cass's hair. "It's a sod of a thing to have. All mental health problems are. You're doing great, okay?"*

*Cass nodded and made an affirmative noise in her throat. She couldn't have spoken, because she'd probably have cried. Felicia held onto her for another second before letting her go.*

And it became...

*"That's... I think that's a big part of the sadness."*

*Before he could confirm, Felicia grabbed him. "Oh my God, I'm sorry." He said hitting Kasa's head. "It's hard. It's just a thought. How? Okay?"*

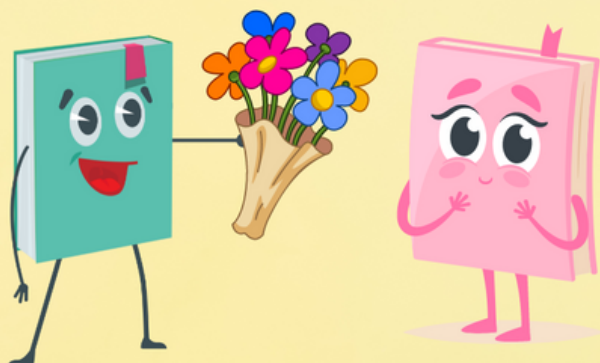
*Cass thought, a gasp of approval escaping her throat. He couldn't speak because he was crying. Felicia hugged him before leaving.*

I also got to participate in Jae's [Sapphic Book Bingo](#) for the first time! Now that I'm a fully paid-up published Sapphic Fiction author, I actually have a book that can be used in Sapphic Book Bingo! *The Summer We've Had* fits into these categories: 'new author'; 'romance without a sex scene'; 'angsty romance' and 'country or state you haven't visited'. I'm also participating in her latest event, *Blind Date With A Sapphic Book*, which starts today!! Make sure you go and check it out [here](#).

*Spice up your reading in February by going on a blind date with a sapphic book (or two... or three), all of them discounted, free, or part of a giveaway for this special occasion. 70+ authors are offering a sapphic romance for you to discover.*

*Every week, the batch of books will swapped for new "blind dates" so you can find a new literary love each week of the month, starting on February 1 on Jae's website.*

## Blind Date with a Sapphic Book



jae-fiction.com

SAPPHIC  
BOOK BINGO



- new author
- angsty romance
- set in Cornwall, UK

## Jokes From My Twitter Followers!

I have some fabulous funny people following me! Here's their contributions to my newsletter!

What did the cupcake say to the frosting?

*"I'm muffin without you!"*

~ S-Jay Hart (@uhohpopquiz)

Two parrots are sitting on a perch. One turns to the other and says, "Can you smell fish?"

~ Allie McDermid (@Allie\_Mcdermid)

I kidnapped a blacksmith the other day, but every time I turned my back, he made a bolt for the door!

~ TJ O'Shea (@Tary\_n)

## Connect with me!

Instagram: [@katherineblakemanwriter](https://www.instagram.com/katherineblakemanwriter)

Twitter: [@kblakemanwriter](https://twitter.com/kblakemanwriter)

Mastodon: [@kathblakemanwriter@mastodon.lol](https://mastodon.lol/@kathblakemanwriter)

Website: [www.katherineblakeman.com](http://www.katherineblakeman.com)



# Sapphic Fiction February



## THE PARTICIPANTS

1st February - Jae  
2nd February - Hayden Quinn  
3rd February - Rien Gray  
4th February - Suzanne Moss  
5th February - Clare Ashton  
6th February - Barbara Winkes  
7th February - Abby Taylor  
8th February - E. J. Noyes  
9th February - Teresa Purkis  
10th February - Elle Armstrong  
11th February - Roslyn Sinclair  
12th February - Elena Abbott  
13th February - TJ O'Shea  
14th February - Jourdyn Kelly  
15th February - Lily Seabrooke  
16th February - Carolyn Elizabeth  
17th February - Emily Hayes  
18th February - Violet Morley  
19th February - Marianne Ratcliffe  
20th February - Victoria Hawthorne  
                    - Jenn Matthews  
21st February - TJ Dallas  
22nd February - Ana Clements  
23rd February - Claire Highton-Stevenson

24th February - Ami Spencer  
25th February - Melissa Tereze  
26th February - Jacqueline  
Ramsden  
27th February - Nikki Markham  
28th February - Emily Banting  
1st March - S-Jay Hart  
2nd March - Clare Lydon  
3rd March - Chloe Keto  
4th March - Adrian J. Smith

Keep an eye out on my  
blog and social media  
accounts throughout  
February!



# Rollin' rollin' rollin'...

Apparently, when cats roll over it's a sign of happiness and love. Which makes me very happy, because look at her!



## *Quick Review: Sprinkled In The Stars by Violet Morley*



I discovered this book while putting together Violet's interview for Sapphic Fiction February, and immediately when I read the blurb, I knew it would be great. And ice cream?? How could I resist?

SITS lived up to every expectation. It made me crave ice cream, it gave me the warm fuzzy feelings that are a requirement for a romance, and it broadened my understanding of neurodivergence. AJ is a fabulous parent to Parker, and Mel's character development was hugely satisfying. And Violet sure knows how to write a character you hate - Rebecca made me quite frankly want to throttle her!!

Buy [Sprinkled In The Stars](#) on Amazon today!



# Cinnamon Sugar Cupcakes

I'm aware cinnamon is more of an autumnal spice stereotypically, but who says you can't have it in February to warm you up? These little cupcakes were a hit with my friends when I made them, so I think you'll enjoy them too!



## INGREDIENTS:

200g self-raising flour  
120g caster sugar  
2tsp baking powder  
1 egg  
120ml milk  
75g melted butter  
1tsp cinnamon  
1/2tsp nutmeg/mixed spice

## METHOD:

Mix all the dry ingredients together.  
Beat the egg and milk together and add to the dry ingredients, with the butter.  
Spoon into twelve muffin cases and, optionally, top with a little cinnamon sugar.  
Bake at 200C/400F/Gas Mark 6 for 20 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.  
Sprinkle with more cinnamon sugar to finish.

*"A love story between two women ... a sure fire interest for anyone with an interest in mental health."*

*~ Chloe Keto*

## THE SUMMER WE'VE HAD

BY KATHERINE BLAKEMAN

Available now  
on Amazon and Kindle Unlimited!

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and some ink could have the ability to change lives...*

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Get yours today!