

Katherine Blakeman
June 2022

HAPPY PRIDE MONTH!!*

*Or, as it's otherwise known, June.

Hello everyone!

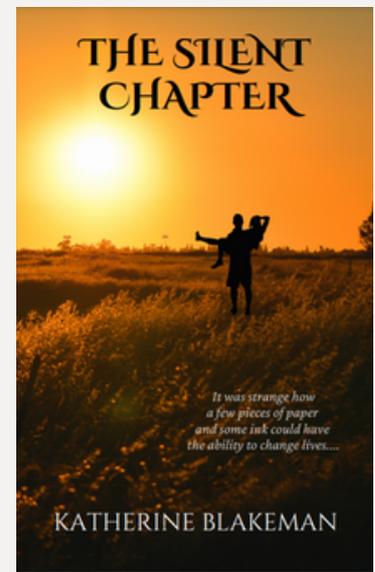
Do you like the new look? For Pride Month, I thought I'd make a change and go rainbow-themed. I'm also using Canva to create it, in a sort of trial run. Mostly because using Word was making me want to gnaw off my own fists with frustration, but let's not go there...

You'll have to tell me what you think of it. If I can make it easier on the eye, or any more accessible, please do tell me!

June is not only Pride Month, but Scoliosis Awareness Month. I have suffered with scoliosis - a back condition in which the spine curves and/or twists - for six years now. I had invasive surgery to correct it in 2017, and since then I've been determined to spread the word, and share the symptoms, so that more people are aware. If I'd known about scoliosis seven years ago, I might have caught mine earlier and been saved so much pain and stress. I will speak more about it in my blog. (Yes, I have a blog now! More on that below...)

Also in this newsletter: a unique take on my recipe section, to compensate for the lack of Poppy the cat. You may remember that we lost her on April 25th, and I quite frankly just cannot face trawling through my old pictures of her. She will be back though. Everything else remains: the jokes, the plugging of *The Silent Chapter*, and of course a quick review of a (hilarious and absolutely must-buy) book.

So all that I need to say now is enjoy reading my newsletter... if I ever gather the motivation to write the rest of it!



Love, Kathy!



Connect with me!

Instagram: @katherineblakemanwriter

Twitter: @kblakemanwriter

Facebook: Katherine Blakeman

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WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO IN MAY

I kicked off May with something not that exciting: a slight alteration to the spine of *The Silent Chapter*. The old one was hideously boring, so I made it... slightly less hideously boring. I know. Thrilling.

On a more exciting note, in the first few days of May I had a wonderful interview with Frankie from [Chicks, Rogues and Scandals!](#) We talked about what *The Silent Chapter* would look like as a film, my experiences of writing it, and my favourite snack. You can read the whole interview by clicking the link above. (The eagle-eyed amongst you might notice I already talked about this in my last newsletter. All I can say is *shhhhh...*)

Then, on May 7th, I packed my bag and took the train down to Crawley to the South Coast Lesfic Hang Out (or SCHLO), organised by [Claire Highton-Stevenson](#) and her team. I met so many incredible lesfic writers and readers - including Chloe Keto, whose debut lesfic novel [Ransom To Love](#) has literally *just* been released! I'm a couple of chapters in (at time of writing) and already intrigued. Check it out today!

The very next day, I started a blog. As if I don't ramble enough in these monthly newsletters, I've set aside a whole page on my website (which I've called Katherine's Corner, thank you to Bixby Jones for coming up with that name) to ramble further. My first couple of posts were... experimental, to say the least. But in the last couple of weeks I've tackled the topics of [hidden disabilities](#), the [ups and downs of self-publishing](#), and most recently [being a teenage author](#). You can subscribe to it on my website. If I ever figure out how to make it notify my subscribers when I post...

About a week later, *The Silent Chapter* was reviewed by Miranda from [Miranda's Book Scrape!](#) She was very complimentary about it, describing it as '*a heartwarming emotional read which will leave you wanting more with each chapter*'. Thank you, Miranda!

Oh, and I also got a book sale. Sales totally dried up throughout March and April - then, right at the end of the month, I got a wonderful surprise when I refreshed my sales dashboard and saw a sale. So if that was one of you... you're my best friend now.

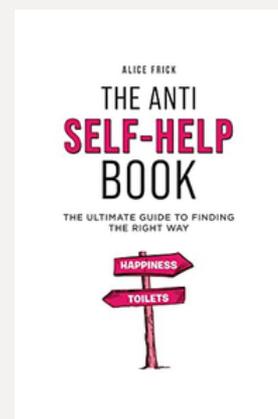
Here's to June! And many more sales! (Pleeeeeeeeease?)

Quick Review: The Anti Self-Help Book by Alice Frick

I invested in this wonderful book when I met Alice at SCHLO early in May. I read the blurb and didn't need any more persuading! Alice performed her stand-up comedy live later that day, and that just confirmed that I had made the right decision.

Alice's natural talent for comedy shines in this book, an ode to the numerous self-help books she devoured after the year from hell. Once you've read it, you will never need to read another self-help book again! The blurb itself is very clever, and the rest of the book does not disappoint! A genius idea from a genius comedian.

Buy [The Anti Self-Help Book](#) on Amazon today!



The Great Blakeman Bolognese Bonanza

A couple of weeks ago, I fancied a spaghetti bolognese. But... not just any bolognese. I went online and amalgamated as many tips and tricks for 'the best bolognese ever' as I could, into one recipe. I didn't use all the ingredients pictured, but I wrote it all down as I went. And let me tell you... it was legitimately the best bolognese I'd ever had! It's not authentically Italian, but it was still very good. So here's the recipe - let me know how you get on with it!



INGREDIENTS:

350g soffrito (a mix of carrot, onion and celery)
1tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1tsp garlic paste
500g beef mince
900g tomato passata and/or chopped tomatoes
1 stock pot/stock cube
3/4tsp sugar
100ml red wine
1/2tsp of dried thyme, oregano, basil, rosemary, onion salt and garlic salt
a sprinkle of paprika
1tsp caramelised onion chutney

METHOD:

Fry the soffrito in the olive oil. When it is almost cooked, add the garlic paste and continue frying. Add the mince and cook through. Add the passata/tomatoes, rinsing out the cartons with a little water and adding that too. Pour in the wine (the alcohol will cook off). Stir in the stock pot, sugar, herbs and onion chutney, and season with salt and pepper. Partially cover with a lid and simmer on low for two or three hours, or until it has thickened significantly. Serve with some form of pasta, or use as part of a lasagne. Either way, serve with lots of cheese!



Bear-Themed Jokes



What do you call a bear that's stuck in the rain?
A drizzly bear!

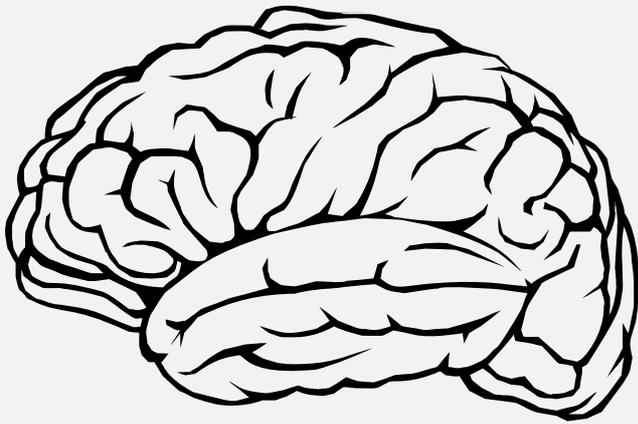
What shoes do bears wear?
None. They're barefoot!

Why are koalas not considered bears?
They don't meet the koalafications!

What do you call a bear with no ears?
B.



WANTED!



*A sensitivity reader for
my next book!*

Do you, or someone you know, have experience
or knowledge of either depression, or
Dissociative Identity Disorder?
If so, please do get in touch! I have a cute lesfic
romance for you to read...



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

THE SILENT CHAPTER

BY KATHERINE BLAKEMAN

Now available on Amazon worldwide!

Get yours today!