

WELCOME TO APRIL!

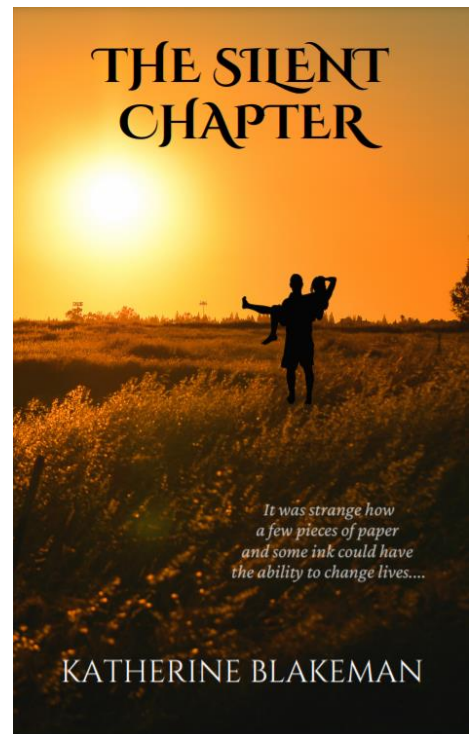
Hello everyone!

You'd think that the weather would start to get better right now, wouldn't you? But if you're in England, you know you can never count on the weather. We've had all four seasons in about a week, so I'll say tentatively... happy Spring?

This month's newsletter is not as long as last month's six-page bumper edition. Mainly because I've been slacking when it comes to promoting [The Silent Chapter](#). There was one particularly exciting promotional activity that I took part in, though: a radio interview! Read on to find out how that happened, and how I got on!

It's always important to look forward, so I'm pressing on with the next book. It's quite different to *The Silent Chapter*: a no-holds-barred look into Dissociative Identity Disorder, with a healthy dose of lesbianism on the side. That's all the information you're going to get though. Watch this space!

Enjoy the rest of my news! (And yes, Poppy the cat is here. Would I disappoint you?)



Love, Kathy ☺

DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH ME?

I always love to hear from the wider writing community, and I am now actively inviting collaborations! Want to co-host a giveaway with me? I'm in! Want to read and review each other's books? Give me a shout! Even if it's something as little as a retweet-for-retweet, contact me and let's see what we can do!

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

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

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WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO IN MARCH

Is there anything better than winning a book?

No, I didn't think so either. Early in March, I discovered the BookFuel book auction for National Energy Action, organized by [Vikki Patis](#) (also known as Victoria Hawthorne - @VikkiPatis on Twitter). I scrolled through all of the wonderful prizes on offer and put a couple of bids on things that I really liked the look of (and were within my price range). A few days later, I got a message from Vikki – I'd won a prize! I won a signed copy of [One Way Ticket to Paris](#) by Emma Robinson (@emmarobinsonuk), and [New Girl In Little Cove](#) by Damhnait Monaghan (@Downith). I was SO excited. I've read the former – and reviewed it down below – and the latter is next on my TBR.

Now onto my next WIP. I started writing it in the first lockdown, Spring 2020, and since then I've been rewriting it, tinkering with it, and wondering what the hell it's missing. In mid-March, I decided I'd procrastinated enough, and appealed on Twitter for five lesfic beta readers. I found them, and they are in the process of reading the manuscript. So far, the two who have completed it have given me some invaluable feedback. God help me if I'd left in some of the stuff they've suggested I change! Chloe (@ChloeJKetoWLW) and Marianne (@ratcliffe_mj) – you're the best!

It might not be newsworthy per se, but I read a couple of books that broke me. One of those was [All My Mothers](#) by Joanna Glen. There's so much I want to say about it, but I still haven't found the words, despite having read it twice. All I can say right now is... I want to move to Córdoba. I also FINALLY read [The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo](#) by Taylor Jenkins Reid. What a tale. Not going to lie, I did get a bit mixed up now and then, but I'll read it again at some point and I'm sure it will make more sense then.

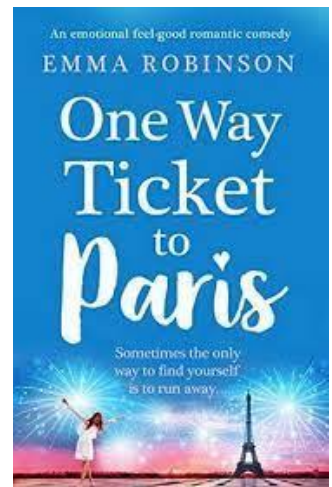
I received a great review of *The Silent Chapter* by [Briony Molly Media](#) (@itsjust_molly). Molly read the ebook version – unlike all of my other reviewers who preferred physical copies – which in itself made my heart sing as she is committed to supporting indie authors by buying their book. And her review brought tears to my eyes. I won't put the whole thing here, but she said, ***“This is one of the best debut books I have read in a while, and can safely say it is in my top ten favourites. ... The amount of research and respect that has gone into writing this book is in itself a 5-star rating. ... It is easy to follow and digest making the book a pleasurable read.”*** All in all, she gave it four and a half stars. Thank you, Molly!

And by far the most nerve-wracking thing that happened to me in March was my radio interview with Babs Michel of BBC Three Counties Radio on 14th March. I got in contact with her wonderful producer Kimberley on the 13th, and within 24 hours the interview was all recorded and ready to air! Babs completely put me at ease and we chatted about how I came to write and self-publish *The Silent Chapter*. You can find the recording on the [Press page](#) on my website, and I also took the liberty of transcribing it for anyone who isn't able to hear it.

QUICK REVIEW: ONE WAY TICKET TO PARIS BY EMMA ROBINSON

Firstly, thank you Emma for sending me a copy! I loved reading this book. It really made me want to go to Paris. The book is unique as it is told from three viewpoints, and Emma did a great job of making sure each one was distinctive. I never mixed up any of their three stories, despite them all intertwining. Emma also did a great job of describing life as a mother, with the character of Kate. I'm not even a mother, but I could vividly imagine Kate's life with two young children, and the joys and frustrations they entail. I'm glad all three characters worked things out. I was really rooting for them.

[ONE WAY TICKET TO PARIS](#) IS AVAILABLE FROM AMAZON NOW!



WORD-THEMED JOKES!

(I DID MATHS-THEMED ONES LAST MONTH, SO IT'S ONLY FAIR I DO WORD-THEMED ONES THIS MONTH... RIGHT?)

EASY:

WHAT WORD IS ALWAYS PRONOUNCED INCORRECTLY?

“INCORRECTLY”

MEDIUM:

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS A JOKE WITH A RHETORICAL QUESTION?

HARD:

A PRIEST, A MINISTER AND A RABBIT WALK INTO A BLOOD BANK. THE RABBIT SAYS, *“I THINK I'M A TYPE O.”*

BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING

Winter recipe? Probably! But nothing wrong with a little warm comfort now and again. Best served hot.

INGREDIENTS

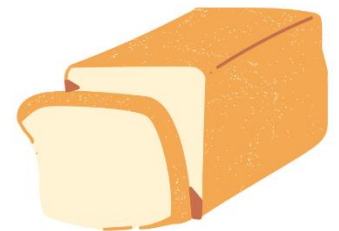
8 slices crustless white bread
75g caster sugar
½ tsp mixed spice
2 eggs
300ml double cream
150ml milk
2tsp demerara sugar

METHOD

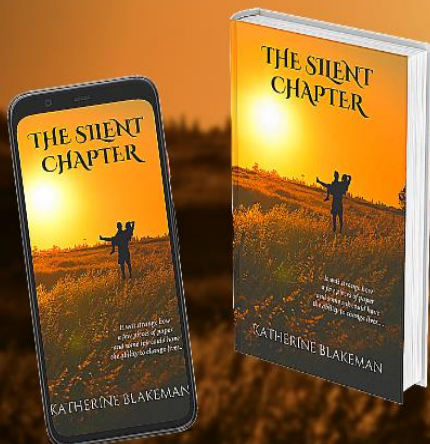
Cut each slice of bread into three. Butter each, and lay in three layers into a dish. First two layers butter side down, last one butter side up. Mix mixed spice into the caster sugar and sprinkle between each layer. Whisk together the eggs, cream, milk and demerara. Pour over the bread and soak for half an hour. Sprinkle with a little more demerara and bake at 180C/350F/Gas 4 for 30-40 minutes.

**EVER HEARD OF
THE CAT LOAF?**

‘Loafing’ is a term I – and probably many others – use to describe a cat sitting upright with its paws tucked underneath. If you picture a loaf of bread, it will likely look similar to that. Have a look at these photos of Poppy and see what I mean. (I do not own the cartoon of the bread, full credit goes to the original owner.)



*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!