

# SPRING HAS ARRIVED!

Hello everyone!

I seem to have gathered quite a few new subscribers this month, so a huge hello to you, and thank you for subscribing! Welcome to the gang. Once a month, you get a nice little PDF from me, full of all my news! This can range from reviews of my books, events in which I'm participating, events that I'm running, and even content from other authors! For example, this month you're getting an exclusive interview with YA/lesfic author [Kristen Zimmer](#), who wrote the incredible '[When Sparks Fly](#)' and '[The Gravity Between Us](#)'. Last month, I released the schedule of Sapphic Fiction February to you guys, and you alone. In a nutshell, you've signed up for a monthly parcel of me. And I'm aware that that sounds like something weird, something out of a horror movie, but you know what I mean.



## THE SILENT CHAPTER

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

KATHERINE BLAKEMAN

I hope you've enjoyed Sapphic Fiction February. It's not quite over yet - there's still four days to go, including today, and I'm hoping to do some sort of recap post later this month, if I get time. (I'm aware we're now in March, but I got oversubscribed, okay?) I'll try not to chat too much about that in this newsletter though - I'll save that for the recap. Thus, in the rest of this newsletter is the promised interview with Kristen Zimmer, news about what else I've done throughout February, pictures of my adorable late kitty cat enjoying some time in nature, some jokes from my Twitter followers and a recipe for an incredible Swedish chocolate cake you won't want to miss. (I still can't pronounce the cake's name. Apologies to any Swedes.) As well as that, I've reviewed a book from the wonderful [Jacqueline Ramsden](#) - it's one that I couldn't put down over New Years, and one that I ran out of room for in the section!

One final thing before I let you get on with the rest of this newsletter. The Summer We've Had has been nominated for an I Heart SapphFic award, in the [Sapphic Asexual/Demisexual Story](#) category. It would mean the world if you could go and vote for it - but only if you think it deserves it, obviously! Voting closes March 4th!

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

Love, Kathy <3

# WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO IN FEBRUARY

Other than Sapphic Fiction February, of course.

I asked my Twitter followers what they thought I looked like, since pictures of me are exceedingly rare. It was interesting. I never revealed the answers... but now I'm going to, because why not? Those of you who said blonde, average-height, with glasses, would be right. Chloe Keto said "6 foot redhead with three heads and a scaly tail that [she] use[s] to vanquish enemies who don't buy [her] book". She's met me, In real life. Clearly I wasn't feeling my best self if I gave her that impression!

I came up with a title for my WIP, and spent some time mocking up covers. It needs a lot of work, but I have some ideas. Now I just need to, y'know, finish writing the book.

[S-Jay Hart](#) released a book of poetry! (I'm aware that's not my news per se, but S-Jay is a wonderful friend and so it was a fantastic surprise when she released it!) [Pluto and The Debris](#) is a collection of beautiful poems, bound in a beautiful cover, penned by a beautiful human being. Go and check it out!

Talking of authors who are wonderful friends, I spent a portion of the month beta reading Sabrina Kane's next two novels. You may remember that Sabrina and I did a little work together earlier this year - from an interview with her to releasing our two Cornish-based lesfic novels on the same day. Now, Sabrina is releasing the next two novels of her wildly popular [Carlsbad Village Lesbian Romance](#) series... ON THE SAME DAY! March 18th, to be precise. On that Saturday, book 11 ([Never Call Her A Spy](#)) and book 12 ([The Before And After Of Molly Baldwin](#)) will be out into the world, injecting us all with a much-needed boost of SoCal sunshine. Mark the date, everyone!

The Summer We've Had appeared in Week 3 of Jae's 'Blind Date With A Sapphic Book'. If you missed it, it was under the headings 'bi/ace rep, angsty, mental health rep'. I gave away a free digital copy of the book, and I hope the lucky winner Maria enjoys it! (The irony of Maria being the character of Felicia's original name up until the final draft of the book was not lost on me.)

My month was made when I discovered that The Summer We've Had had been nominated for one of I Heart SapphFic's 'Best Of The Best' awards. I don't know who nominated me, but if I find out, I'll be giving them the biggest virtual hug in the universe. The category I'm in is ['Best Sapphic Asexual/Demisexual Story'](#). I'm in fantastic company, with books by Jae, Jax Meyer, TB Markinson, Miranda McLeod and Stephanie Shea amongst many others. As such, I'm not getting my hopes up, but if being a published author has shown me anything, it's that anything is possible. So who knows? Maybe next month, I'll finally be able to call myself an award-winning author. Voting closes on March 4th - go vote for your favourite now!

Even if I don't win, I'm eternally grateful for the number of fantastic reviews The Summer We've Had has received. It's probably poor taste to waffle about them too much, but still... I'm going to mention some of them. Jenna of [The Lesbian Review](#) warmed my heart with her review on their website - she said '*Katherine Blakeman is an amazing author who isn't afraid to touch on subjects that most authors stay away from. She*

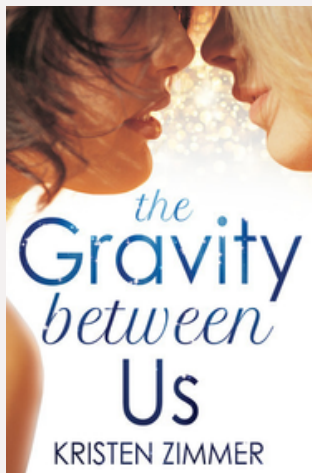


*takes the subject of mental health and deals with it astoundingly, showing us the realities people face.'* Thank you so much, Jenna!

This newsletter would be as long as the book itself if I talked about every single review I've had, so I'm going to just mention a couple more. If you're reading this and your review isn't here, please don't be offended! I just didn't want to write the Goodreads equivalent of War and Peace, okay?

*Gayle Miller wrote 'Not only was this story entertaining. It was eye-opening. I am so grateful to have read this fantastic book. Beautiful works like this are a gift to the world!' Rowan wrote 'Not your usual sapphic romance. Very well written, giving the reader a good insight of DID and depression. But it was not a depressive read, it was lively, good story line with some drama and rest assured a HEA.' And last but by no means least, Lindsey Perry wrote 'The characters are described so beautifully you believe they exist in reality and I so want to know, what happened next, how did Heather and the alters develop once in a supportive relationship? Highly recommend reading this, I loved it.'* I'm so grateful to everyone who's taken the time to read, rate and/or review *The Summer We've Had*. As a teenage indie author, it means so much!

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*An Interview With...*

# KRISTEN ZIMMER



I should probably preface this by saying that Kristen is my fiancée.

...No, not really. It's just an inside joke between us. Kristen asked for something witty on her Twitter a few weeks ago, and I responded with a witty limerick for her book, *When Sparks Fly*. It read as follows...

*There was a young person called Britt,  
Whose parents were really quite shit.  
Luckily she found Avery,  
Who didn't know her own bravery,  
So Britt helped her discover it!*

Kristen loved it so much she proposed marriage.

I suggested an interview too.

So here you go, everyone: an interview with my virtual fiancée!

Let's start this off the same way I start off all my interviews... Kristen, introduce yourself! Who are you and what do you do?

*I'm Kristen Zimmer. I'm an editor and I write gay books. Or I try to write gay books, but mostly just procrastinate and cry.*

How did you get into writing?

*I've always loved words from the time I was a kid— reading and writing them. I think I was around seven years old the first time an adult asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up and my answer was “an author.” At least I'm consistent.*

Which of your characters do you relate to the most, and why?

*Britton Walsh is very much me, on a page. She's sad and sweet and guarded, thinks too much, feels things deeply, usually feels a little out of place around people, but she's funny and always just... keeps going.*

When you're not reading, what do you do to relax?

*I listen to music and spend entirely too much time wandering around museums. When I want to “Stress Relax” I watch baseball.*

What was the last book you read?

*[Merlin's Tour of the Universe](#) by Neil deGrasse Tyson.*

Who are your biggest inspirations?

*My family.*

What would you say has been your biggest achievement?

*When [The Gravity Between Us](#) was included on [Reader's Digest '55 Best Romance Novels of All Time'](#) list. I don't know that I'd ever really been proud of myself until I found out about that (from TWITTER!)*

Does anyone you know in real life read your work?

*Yes. I (stupidly) used my real name instead of a pen name, so I have the joy of looking people in the face and blushing when they tell me they've read one of my books. It's good times.*

Are you really as ‘wicked cranky’ in social situations as your Twitter bio says? And do you really hate it there?

*Sometimes. And sometimes.*

What does the future look like for you and your writing? Do you have anything else in the pipeline?

*I'm contractually obligated to write at least one more romance novel. Beyond that, I have no idea.*

What's your favourite ice cream?

*This is an illegal question! But I'm going to say maple walnut.*

How can people connect with you?

[Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or they could just, like, not (which would be preferable. I'm cranky, remember?)

# THANK YOU, KRISTEN!



## *Jokes From My Twitter Followers!*

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

Two men walk into a bar. The third man ducks.  
~ Rob (@Robinovi4)

How many weeks does a year have?  
46! The other six are Lent.  
~ Chris (@sidneypaget)

If I were to be hit by anyone it would have to be Peter Pan - because when he throws punches, they neverland.  
~ Andrew (@AndrewRWhite)

## *Connect with me!*

Instagram: [@katherineblakemanwriter](#)

Twitter: [@kblakemanwriter](#)

Mastodon: [@kathblakemanwriter@mastodon.lol](#)

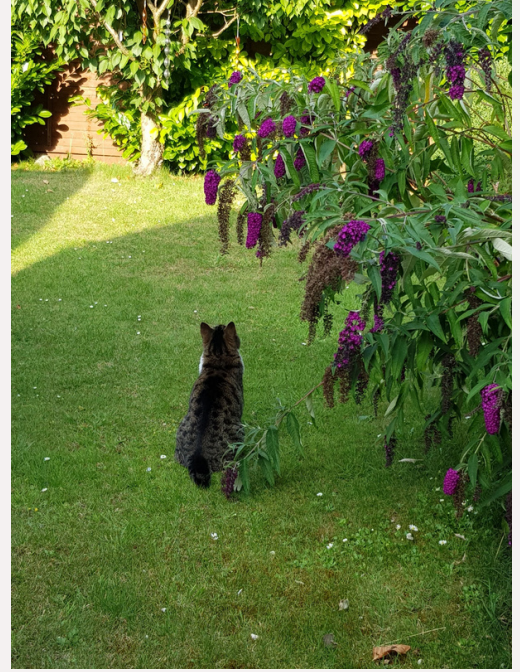
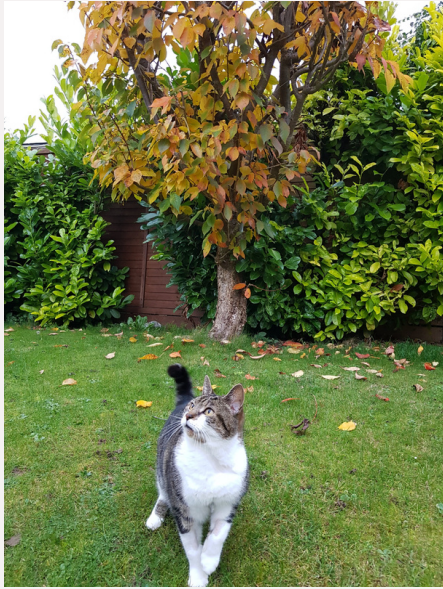
Website: [www.katherineblakeman.com](#)





# Cat Tree

Not literally. Perhaps a more accurate title is Cat AND Tree. Poppy was an outdoors gal at heart, as you see here!



## *Quick Review: The Art Of Growing by Jacqueline Ramsden*



Words cannot explain how much I adore this book.

I related so much to both MCs. It felt like Jacqueline had reached into my brain and plucked pieces of me out. To know that there are people out there, who accept each other and come together in the sweetest and most tender of romances... it warmed my heart so much. I wanted to give Sloane a hug when she was with her family - and I wanted to give her various bullying/advantage-taking family members a swift kick somewhere unmentionable!! Luckily, Polly effectively did that for us - what an icon.

Highly recommend this book, and all by Jacqueline!

Buy [The Art Of Growing](#) on Amazon today!



# The Cake With All The Letters (Kladdkaka)

I'd never heard of kladdkaka (Swedish chocolate cake) until Sabrina Kane put it in [one of her upcoming books](#). But when I beta read it, I Googled it and discovered that not only did it look delicious, I actually had the ingredients in! An hour later, this was created. Crunchy and squidgy, it's every chocolate lover's dream! Recipe credit to BuzzFeed Tasty.



## INGREDIENTS:

265g caster sugar  
2 eggs  
60g plain flour  
30g cocoa powder  
115g melted butter  
1tsp vanilla  
1tbsp solid butter  
1tbsp cocoa powder

## METHOD:

Grease a 8-inch cake tin with butter, then line with the 1tbsp of cocoa powder.  
In a bowl, beat the sugar and eggs until pale yellow. Sift in the flour and cocoa powder, and fold.  
Mix in the melted butter and vanilla.  
Pour in the batter and smooth it out.  
Bake for 20 minutes at Gas 4/180C/350F. The top will have hardened but the inside will be soft. Serve with cream and fruit.

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

*~ Chloe Keto*

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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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