

## MAY EDITION

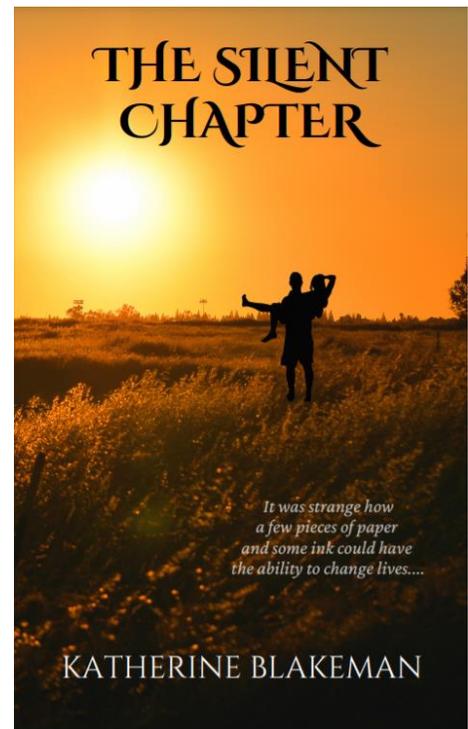
Hello everyone!

I say 'everyone', but there's only about two and a half people who actually read this. Yes, I see the statistics – I see you! I'm ever so grateful. You're the best!

New month, new letter. You know the drill by now. This one's probably going to be a bit flat, because very sadly we lost Poppy the cat on April 25<sup>th</sup>. There's still jokes and recipes and news in here, but there's also a tribute to her. I will continue to feature her in subsequent newsletters, to keep her memory alive if nothing else.

There isn't much news, though. I'm doing a lot of behind-the-scenes stuff. But what I have done, I have included. Sales of [The Silent Chapter](#) are unfortunately down... largely because I've got on the wrong side of the social media algorithms! Your likes and shares are much appreciated. And not just on social media – word of mouth is equally effective. If you want to share The Silent Chapter with people you know in real life... I'm not going to stop you!

Enough hinting. On with the newsletter.



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!

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

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

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

Facebook: Katherine Blakeman

## WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO IN APRIL

I actually had to think there... what HAVE I been up to in April??

April, for me, has mostly been taken up with responding to my beta readers' feedback on my next book. [Conny](#), [Marianne](#), [Chloe](#) and [Gail](#) – you're all amazing!! This month's project is to actually rewrite the whole thing. At time of writing, I am three days into the month, and five pages in. I'll get there!

I have also been searching for a sensitivity reader for the manuscript. It discusses – in great detail – Dissociative Identity Disorder, a type of complex-PTSD. So far I've gone down three avenues looking for a sensitivity reader, and have had no response to any of them. Is it just me or does nobody want to know when you're an indie author? If anyone knows somebody with deep knowledge of Dissociative Identity Disorder who'd be willing to read my lesfic manuscript before I start querying it, please get in touch...!

In the last few days, I featured on the [Chicks, Rogues and Scandals](#) blog! (Yes, I know how that sounds – please be assured I am neither a chick, nor a rogue, nor a scandal.) Frankie put a call out for authors on social media, and I jumped at the chance to feature on her wonderful blog! You can find my interview with her [here](#), where I talk about what The Silent Chapter would be like as a film, my biggest inspiration and my favourite snacking food.

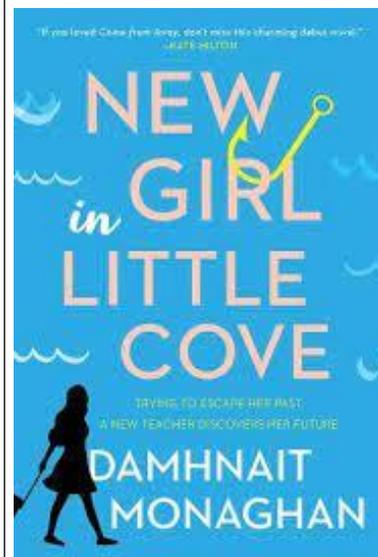
Not a lot else has happened in my book world. I sent a letter last week to my local English Heritage site. That house was part of the inspiration behind Everleigh House in The Silent Chapter, so I've asked them if they would be interested in stocking it, for a bit of local history. Fingers crossed for me!

In terms of my personal life, very sadly we lost our beautiful cat Poppy on 25<sup>th</sup> April. We knew it was coming; she had cancer. I know I promised no sad stuff when you all signed up for this newsletter... but she's been on here since the word go, so I feel she deserves a tribute. Read on for that, or skip it if you prefer. Content warning: discussion of cancer.

## QUICK REVIEW: NEW GIRL IN LITTLE COVE BY DAMNHAIT MONAGHAN

Firstly, a massive thank you to Damnhait for sending me a signed copy after the BookFuel auction! *New Girl In Little Cove* was quite unlike anything I've ever read before. For one thing, it was set in Newfoundland. I've never been, and I found the dialogue tricky at first, but I soon wrapped my head around it. Rachel was very relatable, trying to find her place in a village hostile to visitors and non-Catholics, and Damnhait's writing really drew me in. I devoured it in a matter of days because I simply couldn't put it down!

[NEW GIRL IN LITTLE COVE](#) IS AVAILABLE FROM AMAZON NOW!



## WHERE? JOKES

### EASY:

WHERE DOES AN ARMY OFFICER KEEP HIS ARMIES?

*IN HIS SLEEVES!*

### MEDIUM:

WHERE DID NOAH KEEP HIS BEES?

*IN THE ARK HIVES!*

### HARD:

WHERE DO YOU TAKE SOMEONE WHO'S INJURED THEMSELVES PLAYING PEEKABOO?

*I-C-U*

## STRAWBERRY AND PASSIONFRUIT PAVLOVA

### INGREDIENTS

4 egg whites  
250g caster sugar  
1 tsp apple cider vinegar  
1 tsp cornflour  
300ml whipped cream  
500g strawberries  
3 passionfruits

### METHOD

Whip the egg whites, adding the sugar slowly until they form stiff peaks.  
Mix together the vinegar and cornflour, then mix into the egg whites.  
Arrange into a big circle on a baking sheet, with a well in the middle.  
Bake at 150C/130 Fan/Gas 2 for one hour.  
Wash and chop the strawberries, and mix them with the pulp from two of the passionfruits.  
Once cool, put the cream in the well, and put the strawberries on top. To finish, pour over the pulp of the remaining passionfruit.

## ***A TRIBUTE TO POPPY THE TABBY CAT***

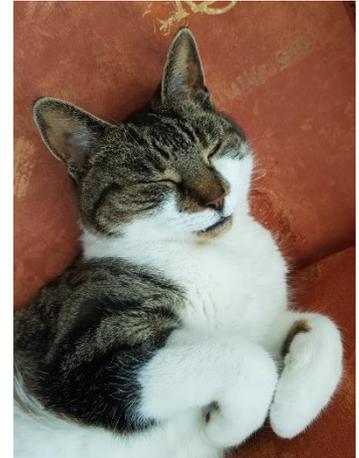
Very sadly, on April 25<sup>th</sup> we made the decision to have our lovely Poppy put to sleep.

We had her nearly ten years – since August 2012. Inspired by a friend of mine who'd recently adopted a cat, I spent the vast majority of that summer researching cat rescues in and around London. We visited a couple, and on the third we found a little female tabby sitting on her own in a pen. Her name was Patchwerk. We were informed she was 18 months old, had been found with her kittens as a stray, and was on her own because she was aggressive to other cats. We immediately knew she was the one, and renamed her Poppy.

Since then, she's been my best friend. Sure, I've had a few wounds thanks to her claws and teeth, but so has everyone who came into contact with her. She didn't like strangers, and so we would always warn anyone who tried to pet her that they had approximately five seconds before her patience ran out. Vets, hairdressers, friends' children... they all fell foul of her claws, sooner or later. Luckily, she mellowed a little bit in her later years.

She got into some scrapes. She cut her tail in 2015, which then got infected, requiring a cone of shame, some stitches and some antibiotics. In 2020 she lost the claws in her back feet after being attacked by a dog – she was trying to kick him off, and her claws got stuck in his chest. She then disappeared for the best part of a day, and came back with two infected paws. Then in October 2021, she was at a six-month review at the vet when they found some lumps that turned out to be 'mammary adenocarcinoma' – a type of feline breast cancer. There was no treatment that would prolong her life, so they advised us to just enjoy her.

Weeks to months, they said then. By April, she had long outlived their expectations, but she was starting to slow down. Her appetite waned, and in her last couple of weeks she got very thin and lethargic. When she didn't even want her Lick-e-lix cat yoghurts, we knew it was her time. On the morning of April 25<sup>th</sup>, we called the vet, and she passed peacefully at 10am.



Rest in peace, Poppy. I miss you so, so much.

***Poppy***

***2011-2022***