

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME

Hello everyone!

A hearty HAPPY CHRISTMAS to you all! Is it too early to say that? If it is, I don't care. Of course, you may not celebrate Christmas. If so, I offer you a hearty HAPPY HOLIDAYS, with my best wishes for the festive season.

I'm plugging away at the next WIP - although, I have to say, it's stalled a bit. There just doesn't seem to be enough time, especially with my promotion schedule for *The Summer We've Had*! The potential demise of Twitter has put a bit of a spanner in the works for me - although I am now on Mastodon, hoping it takes off! Find me @kathblakemanwriter@mastodon.lol. Not sure about Hive yet, I'll see what the rest of the sapphic reading community think.



THE SILENT CHAPTER

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

KATHERINE BLAKEMAN

You have an absolute treat in store for you in this newsletter: an interview with [Sabrina Kane](#), author of the immensely popular (and immensely steamy) lesfic books in the [Carlsbad Village](#) and [Cornish Lesbian](#) series. I've been lucky enough to beta read her latest few releases since the summer, and they all have guaranteed sweet moments, guaranteed steam, and guaranteed Happily Ever Afters.

*Sabrina and I also have an exclusive announcement for you all...
read on to find out what that is!*

I've been struggling with not having Poppy this last few days. It's been more than six months since I lost my little tabby cat, but it's still hard. For that reason, there are no Poppy pictures in this edition. Hope you all understand.

As well as Sabrina Kane's interview, you also have a recipe for festive ginger biscuits (or 'cookies', as my US-based readers call them - looking at you Sabrina). Plus the usual bookish news, and a review of Claire Highton-Stevenson's fabulous new lesfic release, [Keep Her Safe](#).

Pre-order [The Summer We've Had](#) today!

Love, Kathy <3

WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO IN NOVEMBER

My November was kicked off with the release of the pre-order link for [The Summer We've Had](#). You guys had it early, so I figured it was only fair to let everyone else have it too! I was absolutely blown away by the likes, comments and shares I received - everyone's so kind! Not many pre-orders so far, I have to admit, but I live in hope that when it's released in January, it'll go through the roof and take the world by storm. Because it's got a very important message to share!! (And Chloe Keto called it 'maybe the cutest, sweetest and certainly most accessible romance' - isn't she a wonderful human being?)

I went into a Waterstones near me and got kind of upset by the overwhelming presence of celebrity authors. I know they have every right to publish books, but it really got to me, that full-time writers and independently published authors are being booted out of the way for these people who already have plenty of strings to their bow. Anyone else get me? (And, side note, did you know that Waterstones won't stock self-published authors? They're really missing a trick, aren't they?)

In mid-November, I spent a full afternoon and evening of my life getting to grips with Mastodon as part of the #SapphicMigration. It required many pleas for help on Twitter, and a change of servers altogether, but now I'm delighted to announce that I can be [found on Mastodon](#) (@kathblakemanwriter@mastodon.lol).

I released a blog post [about Dissociative Identity Disorder](#). Everyone's seen me talking about it recently because the character of Felicia in The Summer We've Had is a DID system, but I wasn't entirely sure how many people knew what it was. So I posted an introduction to DID on Katherine's Corner - I think people have found it educational!

In an effort to connect with my followers before the potential demise of Twitter, I hosted two Q&A's on Twitter (and one on Mastodon). One was the usual, conventional, 'you-ask-a-question-and-I'll-answer' kind of session. And the other was less conventional: a reverse Q&A. An 'I'll-ask-the-question-and-you-answer' kind of session. I loved getting to know all these people I don't really interact with normally, even if I did struggle to think of questions after a while!

And time for your first dose of EXCLUSIVE NEWS...

Today, I released something... a little different. A self-reflection journal, entitled *THIS IS WHO I AM*. It's like a time capsule of your life: sixty identical entries, to be filled out at various points in your life. It's entirely self-paced, and in years to come you'll be able to look back at the entries and enjoy seeing how you and your life have developed.

You guys are the first to know about it. So get your hands on it today! It would make a great Christmas present (for yourself, even). It's available worldwide [via this link](#). Enjoy!!

Quick Review: *Keep Her Safe* by Claire Highton-Stevenson



Oh my Godddddd, what can I say about this book??

It had me hooked right from the start. I found Cat an enchanting, enigmatic character, and really felt for Laura in her plight. For Sienna also - Claire did an excellent job of getting into an eleven-year-old's head (speaking as someone who was eleven years old less than ten years ago)!

There were twists and turns right up to the end with this one, always leaving me guessing. I read the whole thing in forty-eight hours - I simply couldn't put it down!! Yes, that's a cliché, but it's absolutely true here. 'Unputdownable', isn't that what they call it?

Keep Her Safe is 100% worth a read!

Buy [Keep Her Safe](#) on Amazon today!

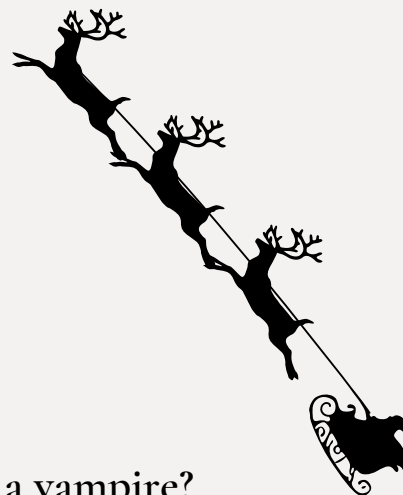
Festive-Themed Jokes!

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card?
"Stick with me, and we'll go places!"

What do you call an all-singing, all-dancing elf?
Elvis.

How does a sheep say 'Merry Christmas'?
"Fleece Navidad!"

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
Frostbite.



Connect with me!

Instagram: [@katherineblakemanwriter](#)

Twitter: [@kblakemanwriter](#)

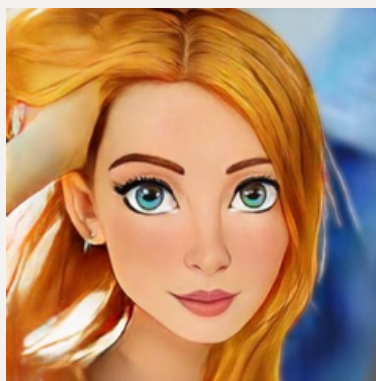
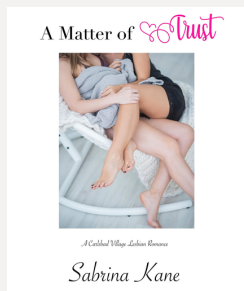
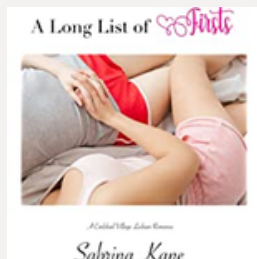
Mastodon: [@kathblakemanwriter@mastodon.lol](#)

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An Interview with **Sabrina Kane** (Countess of Cornwall and Carlsbad)



Sabrina Kane is fast becoming one of the authors that every lesbian fiction reader has on their Kindle or on their bookshelf. She's one of my very few auto-buy authors - those authors whose new releases I buy, before I've even read the blurb. There's something about her writing - the sweetness, the steam, the humour - that makes her books irresistible. I'm lucky enough to be on her beta reading team, and we've been chatting over the last couple of months, which brings me to...

OUR BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!!

Sabrina is the author of two very popular lesfic series: one set in Carlsbad, California, and the other set in Cornwall, England. You may see a link here - my upcoming book *The Summer We've Had* is also set in Cornwall! So it just made sense for us to plan something to mark this coincidence!

And I can now announce that the third instalment of Sabrina Kane's 'Cornwall Lesbian' series, provisionally titled 'Cornwall 3', will be released on January 14th!

Yes, that's right. The same day as *The Summer We've Had*.

And thus it only makes sense for me to interview Sabrina! If you're a Sabrina Kane fan, grab a cup of tea (or other beverage) and settle in for the ride - you're in for a treat!

So, Sabrina... what made you decide to sit down and write a book in the first place?

Ooh, this is a good story!

I'm lucky enough to have a white-collar job that sent people to work from home once the pandemic struck the USA hard in March 2020. So, suddenly, I—like everyone else—had all this extra time.

*Back then, I used to read a lot, and one day, I was considering re-reading (again) my favourite book, *Landing*, by Emma Donoghue. But then I thought, "Let me see if I can find other books featuring lesbian main characters." That's when I discovered that—holy cow—there was this whole genre of fiction out there devoted to lesbians! So, I started reading a lot of these books.*

Anyway, a few months later, I started thinking to myself, “Hey, I could probably write one of these!” I’ve always been a good writer. The next thing I knew, I was coming up with the story of how two women, named Megan and Vanessa (because I’ve always loved those names) could meet here in Carlsbad. I was even sounding out bits of dialog between them in my head, and then writing those conversations down.

Eventually, I decided to try to turn those ideas into a proper story by writing it as a book.

How do you develop your plot and characters?

I am such a pantsner when it comes to writing! This means I do not rigorously outline each book before starting it. In fact, when I start writing a book, I don’t even know how it will end—except happily. I also don’t even know most of the stuff that the characters will go through over the course of the story.

What I do know, however, is how my characters will meet. That bit I come up with before starting to write each book.

The rest of the story just simply comes to me as I write. However, very often I will take walks around Carlsbad, by myself, and think about my story. Walking helps me come up with ideas, which I then type into my phone.

As for how I develop my characters...

I always try to make sure that I don’t have too many of one particular type of woman. Okay fine, I have a lot of tall women in my Carlsbad books (plenty of people have pointed that out, LOL), but I do have a number of shorter ladies in the series. I also try to mix things up when it comes to hair colour and types of jobs, hobbies, personality quirks, etc.

One thing I always do when developing my characters, however, is make sure the reader knows that each woman in one of my books is intelligent, driven, independent and hard-working. Just like a woman shouldn’t need a man to get by, she also shouldn’t need another woman to get by. My characters can stand on their own and make their own way in the world.

As for the comments that the women in my books seem to fit a particular mould, my response is that I base a lot of my characters on what I see around me here in Southern California. I’m tall and athletic, my girlfriend is tall and athletic, and most of our friends are tall and athletic.

When I go grocery shopping or to the beach or to restaurants, many of the women I see doing the same things I’m doing are super-fit and toned and wear skin-tight clothing. That’s Southern California!

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

I relate the most to Megan Baldwin, from “Nothing but a Fling.”

Like Megan, I work in the Information Technology sector, and have obtained a management role at a young age. Also, like Megan, I am an artist; in fact, many of pictures I described in the book as having been drawn by Megan, were drawn by me in real life.

What was your hardest scene to write, and why?

Ariel and Lani saying goodbye in Tahiti! I just imagined being in any one of their shoes, and it was me saying goodbye to a woman I really connected with, but was unsure of ever seeing again.

I was actually dreading having to write that scene, because I knew it was going to be part of their story. I was so relieved when I was done with it!

Are there any books or authors that inspired you to become a writer?

Definitely “Landing” by Emma Donoghue.

Whom do you trust for objective and constructive criticism of your work?

The British.

What books have you read more than once in your life?

Just some of them...

“Landing” by Emma Donoghue

“The Grapes of Wrath” by John Steinbeck

“Germinal” by Emile Zola

“Pride & Prejudice” by Jane Austen

“Beloved” by Toni Morrison

“Below Mercury” by Mark Anson

“Inked with a Kiss” by Jennie Davids



Is there a particular genre you would love to write but only under a pseudonym?

I would really love to tackle full-on erotica using a pseudonym! Oh my god! I would have so much fun with that!

I’m talking about erotic lesbian stories that are just all sex, of the type that I would hesitate to put in one of my other books.

Does anyone in your family read your books?

I warned my parents that my first book ended up having a lot of sex in it.

As it turned out, I ended up having that conversation with them individually, on separate days. My Mom shrugged and said, “If that’s what your core audience wants, then give it to them. That’s business. I probably won’t read it, though, but I’m proud of you for actually writing a book.”

My Dad—the smartass from New York City—said, “I love you to death so don’t take this the wrong way, but I’d rather poke a sharp stick in my eye than read a sex scene my daughter wrote.”

I keep meaning to work my Dad’s answer into one of my books, but I keep forgetting! LOL.

Others in my family know I have written lesfic novels, but if they've read them, they haven't told me.

Has your own writing ever made you cry?

Yes! And it was two connected books!

The scene when Ariel and Lani say goodbye to one another in Tahiti, in "Seven Days to Forever," made me bawl!

Then, the scenes leading up to Megan and Vanessa's wedding in "Starting Forever in Paradise" really got to me also! And then the final scene when they talk about returning to Tahiti as old women...just picturing that made me a sobbing mess!

Do you have anything else to announce...?

Allow me to announce what is coming from Sabrina Kane Inc in sunny Carlsbad in 2023!

Naturally, I will be continuing the Carlsbad Village Lesbian Romance Series! In fact, expect a special treat related to that series coming in early 2023!

Also...I will be starting another new series! What's more, the bonus epilogue in Cornwall 3 will be the introduction to this new series, so be sure to read it! It's an epilogue unlike any you've ever read in lesbian romance!

I. CANNOT. WAIT.

'Cornwall 3' isn't the only book coming on January 14th...

What happens when a woman with depression falls in love with a woman with [Dissociative Identity Disorder](#)?

You get a sweet yet twisting lesbian romance, set in sunny Cornwall, that is unlike anything you've ever read before!

Prepare to fall in love with a system of five alternate personalities as they navigate a WLW relationship...

'An important story about strong women, looking for acceptance and their place in life.' ~ Conny

THE SUMMER WE'VE HAD - [available for pre-order today!](#)



Christmas Ginger Biscuits

I make these every Christmas - they're a staple in my household! Fun fact, the recipe is from a children's cookbook, so they're very easy to make. The original recipe is full of my old annotations from when I was little - I'll show you guys sometime. Cut them out and decorate however you wish.



INGREDIENTS:

350g plain flour
2tsp ground ginger
1tsp bicarbonate of soda
100g butter
175g soft light brown sugar
1 egg
4tbsp golden syrup

METHOD:

Rub the butter into the flour, ginger and bicarb until the texture is akin to breadcrumbs.
Stir in the sugar.
Beat the egg and golden syrup together, then stir into the dry ingredients until a soft dough forms.
Knead the dough until smooth, then roll out thinly.
Cut out some shapes and place on a greased baking tray.
Chill for 15 minutes, then bake for 10-15 minutes at 180C/Gas Mark 4.

