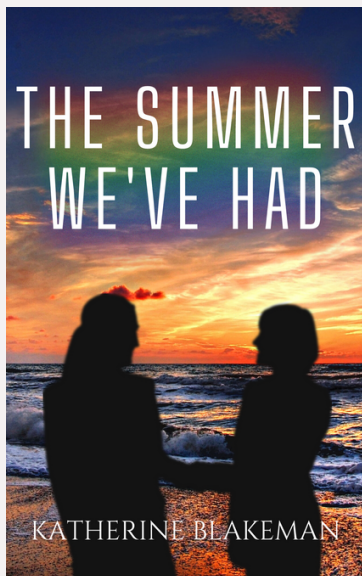


NEARLY NOVEMBER

Hello everyone!

It's been a busy month! I've been working my socks off to get *The Summer We've Had* edited, polished and formatted into its final form. The last few days in particular have been a hive of activity at Blakeman HQ - the amazing Chloe Keto and Sabrina Kane have been reading TSWH (with Chloe labelling it '*the debut lesfic you cannot miss in 2023*' - stop, I'm blushing) and Conny Borner calling it '*an important story about strong women, looking for acceptance and their place in life*'. If their comments are anything to go by, I'm hoping it'll take the world by storm!

Juuuuust... when it's out. In 2023. January 14th, 2023, to be precise. Yeah, sorry, you guys have to wait a few months. The good news is... it's available for pre-order now! And the even better news is...

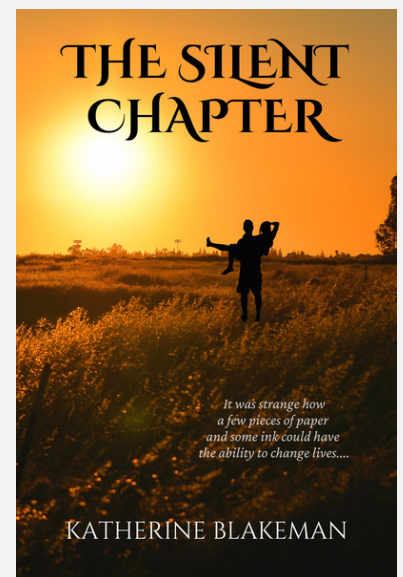


you lovely newsletter subscribers are the first to know about it! [*The Summer We've Had*](#) is available for pre-order as an ebook, right now. I'll be letting the rest of the world know in a few days... so for now, you're not only the first to know, but also the only people to know. With that in mind, get yourself over to Amazon sharpish and pre-order it! Here's the blurb, to remind you what you're getting into...

After a nightmare couple of years following the death of her celebrity singer mother, Cass Mulligan is moving down to the sun, sea and shingle of Cornwall for a fresh start. But she soon realises that she's not the only one in need of some TLC...

Felicia Wilson's life is one long series of spinning plates. She has Dissociative Identity Disorder, a system of five alternate personalities living in her body, and they all have different hopes, fears and desires.

When Cass is thrown together with Felicia, some beautiful friendships grow, and soon there is substantial mutual attraction between Cass and dominant alter Heather. But if things go wrong, they could go very wrong. Can they build a relationship AND keep everybody happy?



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

WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO IN OCTOBER

My month began with a couple of days in Edinburgh to see some online friends - because everyone needs a break now and then. Can't say I got any writing done... although that may have had something to do with the fact I didn't have my laptop on me. Oh well. I've done other bookish stuff this month.

On International Lesbian Day - also known as the best day of the year, October 8th - I did a public cover reveal of [The Summer We've Had](#). You guys had already seen it, of course. Anyway, it went down very well, and I'm hoping that when I release the pre-order link in a few days, the readers will flock to it!!

It's also been a good month for my blogs! It's a little-known fact that I have two, but I do. Katherine's Corner got two this month - the [interview with Chloe Keto](#) that you guys read here a few months back, and [a review of the delightful ABBA Voyage](#) show in London... which quite honestly was one of the best shows I've ever seen, if not THE best. My other blog on the Opinion Panel got a slightly more serious post: [a letter to the Katherine of 18 months ago](#), letting her know that her decision not to go to university was the right one. You can read that here.

I also put out an appeal for book reviewers, to read and review digital ARCs of TSWH. A few wonderful people have responded to me - I'll be sending their copies out in the next couple of days, and I can't wait to see what they think!

Other than that, this month has been pretty much full of editing and getting TSWH ready for publishing. I'd forgotten how much work goes into it. Fighting with Microsoft Word and Kindle Create until I've got something that looks decent, writing the acknowledgements, getting the dedication just right, formatting it so that I have the right font, etcetera. I even sat down and counted each individual page so that the cover I've uploaded has exactly the right dimensions. Who knew the length of a book's spine could be so crucial?? Oh, and I made a new graphic for TSWH. It's my new Twitter and Facebook banner. It also joins my banner for The Silent Chapter at the end of this newsletter - I hope you like it.

Sleepy Kitty, Warm Kitty...



Quick Review: *The Proposal* by T.B. Markinson



I can't deny it - I'm not the biggest fan of London. I live a forty-minute train ride away, but I'm not a city gal. But *The Proposal* might just have gone some way towards changing my mind. Main character Cleo guided the star-struck American tourist Marley through London with the expertise of a fully-trained tour guide - and the way T.B. wrote her made me fall in love with London too.

Not to mention the characters themselves, of course! Cleo and Marley were just the kind of ladies I'd want to hang around with in my personal social life. They really drew me in with their charm - and the fact that they were both mad about books helped, of course...

The Proposal is definitely a must for your TBR!

Buy [The Proposal](#) on Amazon today!

My Favourite Joke Of All Time

To mark Donald Trump's potential return to Twitter...

One day, there was a plane that was about to crash. It had four passengers, but only three parachutes. The first passenger was a man in his thirties. He said, "I have a wife and two children who need me." He took a parachute and left the plane.

The second passenger, Donald Trump, said, "I want to be president again. I can't afford to die." He, too, left the plane.

The third passenger, an army veteran, said to the fourth passenger, a ten year old schoolboy - "Son, I am old, but you have your whole life ahead of you. Go ahead and take the third parachute."

The boy said, "That's okay, sir - there's still two parachutes left. America's Smartest President took my schoolbag."



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Cosy Mac 'N' Cheese

I know very little about Thanksgiving, being a Brit, but from what I've read online, mac 'n' cheese is a staple. So I'm offering you my tried and tested recipe. Here I used red Leicester and cheddar, but most hard cheeses work. Top with a little extra cheese before baking if you want. This recipe serves 4.



INGREDIENTS:

300g pasta
4 slices parma ham/cooked
bacon
125g spinach
30g butter
2tbsp plain flour
400ml milk
250g grated cheese

METHOD:

Prepare all your ingredients before starting to cook.
Pour boiling water into a saucepan and add the pasta.
Melt the butter in another saucepan, then once bubbling, add the flour. Whisk for a minute until cooked, then gradually add the milk, whisking constantly.
Turn the heat up and whisk until the sauce starts to bubble and thicken.
Once this happens, add the grated cheese and whisk while it melts.
Drain the pasta and add to the sauce alongside the spinach and parma ham/bacon.
Pour into a dish and bake for 20 minutes at 180C/Gas 4.

