

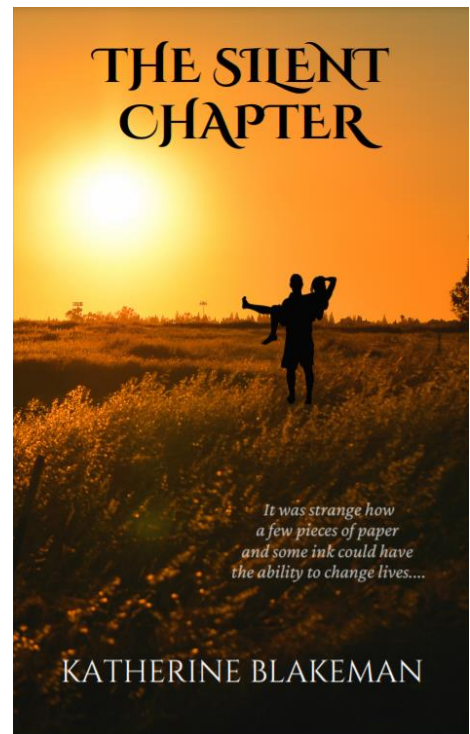
HAPPY FEBRUARY EVERYONE!

Hello everyone!

Well, we made it. We made it to February. And after years of writing, editing, building myself up and biting my nails... [The Silent Chapter](#) is finally here. You can get your copy right now on Amazon. And it comes highly recommended by the lovely book bloggers I've gotten to know this month, who really helped my 2022 set off with a bang.

It's Valentine's month. (Yes, I know it's technically only one day, but it seems to have stretched into the month before it. Just me who's noticed that?) I nod in acknowledgement to my fellow single people, who like me will probably spend 14th February eating chocolate and reading. In fact, I can't think of much else I'd rather be doing! And, if I may be so bold, I suggest that *The Silent Chapter* would be the perfect Valentine's gift to yourself. It's a sweet romance that won't make you sick, and it gives no false impressions that love means an automatic happy-ever-after, like most romances I seem to have read these days. If you want an honest narrative of life and love in interwar Britain to keep you company on these dark winter nights, then *The Silent Chapter* is perfect for you!

The *Silent Chapter*'s release comes at the end of a very interesting month, though. I've been up to a lot. Read on to find out more!



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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WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO IN JANUARY

TLDR: A hell of a lot! So much so that I actually had to make a list...

I'll start by cheating and actually going back to December, to my interview with Fraser from [Feed My Reads!](#) I told him all about my history with books, how I came to self-publish and how much I love the writing community. I'm fairly sure he shared my sentiments. Check him out!

Once we actually got to January, I put out an appeal (or several) to the book bloggers and reviewers of Twitter. I invited them to give me an honest review of *The Silent Chapter* in return for a free copy. At time of writing, I've had four reviews published. The first was by the wonderful Becky from [All My Best, BB](#), who made my heart sing with her review. ***'Each page presents the reader with an articulate 'cooking' of words and the writer's passion. You can feel Blakeman's heart beat in every well-penned sentence. She gives voice to the challenges faced with a gentleness and realness ... and does it so well that readers will forget it is fiction.'***

The second review was by the lovely Emma of [Bobs and Books](#), who in her review wrote that ***'The ending is just perfect. It is something that will stay with me and, in my opinion, is universally relatable.'*** Given all the effort I put into crafting the perfect ending to my whirlwind tale, that was the best thing I could ever have read. I am so grateful for Emma's lovely review, which you can read now on [Goodreads!](#)

Next came Nicki from [Nicki's Book Blog!](#) Her blog post about the book isn't out just yet, but her review (also on Goodreads) was wonderful! She wrote, ***'A stunning read of wartime, bravery and history ... A brilliantly written emotive read – one I shall not forget in a hurry!'*** The blog version will be up later this month, and I highly recommend you check it out, as well as the rest of her blog!

Most recently, [Loz Darwin](#) (@LdLoz on Twitter) left me a review on Twitter and Goodreads! She shared similar sentiments to other reviewers when she said, ***'There are subjects in the book that are at times difficult reading but they are handled delicately and with respect. I read The Silent Chapter in just 3 days as it left me wanting to know what would happen next.'*** I'm very grateful to her for reading it, and for being such a wonderful human being!

I am waiting on five more book blogger reviews, which I hope to feature in my next newsletter. Other than that, the only reviews I'm looking for are the ones my readers will leave after they've finished reading *The Silent Chapter*... no, that's not a hint, lovely reader... not at all...

Now we've done the reviews, what else have I been up to this month?

I gained quite a few Twitter followers. Every time I open my profile, I think *Wow, all these people are actually interested in what I say?* Apparently they are, even if it's all random ramblings, link-drops and the odd cat picture.

What else? I became very well-acquainted with Canva, who I have used to create the front cover, back cover and promotional material for *The Silent Chapter*. I created myself a new profile picture and

Twitter banner and put them up. I was (and still am) pretty proud of all my designs, given that I have absolutely no knowledge or experience of design other than ‘this looks right’. I played a lot with my book cover, trying to up the clarity and make it less blurry. Hopefully I’ve managed it now – you readers will have to let me know how your copies look! All pictures are welcome, by the way – they’ll make my little heart so happy!

I have lots of plans for February. More reviews, another interview and whatever publicity I can get my hands on! If you want to get involved with me, drop me an email at kathblakemanwriter@gmail.com, or DM me on Twitter or Instagram. Just say that you were sent by my newsletter, though, otherwise I may assume you are one of the many, many other unsolicited DMs I receive on both platforms. (Seriously, who doesn’t understand what ‘NO UNSOLICITED DMS’ means in my Twitter bio?)

But for now, onwards to the rest of my newsletter. Poppy the cat makes another appearance, this time showing off her uncanny ability to move the split-second I press ‘take picture’. I’ve also got a cheesy recipe, some even cheesier jokes and – a new one for me – a review of a great book I read this month by Bixby Jones (@ItsBixbyJones on Twitter). Enjoy!

THOSE CHEESY JOKES I SAID ABOUT...

EASY:

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO SOMEONE TRYING TO STEAL YOUR CHEESE AT A MEXICAN RESTAURANT?

THAT’S NACHO CHEESE!

MEDIUM:

WHAT CHEESE DO YOU USE TO PERSUADE A BEAR DOWN FROM A TREE?

COME-ON-BEAR!

HARD:

WHERE DOES A CHEESE PSYCHIATRIST WORK?

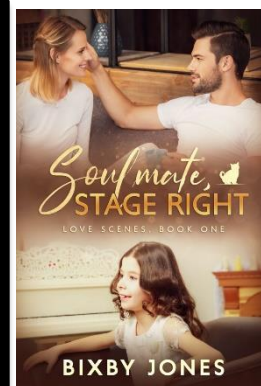
IN EMMENTAL HOSPITAL!

QUICK REVIEW: SOULMATE, STAGE RIGHT BY BIXBY JONES

Bixby did a great job of giving me the warm fuzzy feelings with her new novel! *Soulmate, Stage Right* takes sweet romance to a new level. I mean, it’s got soaps, adorable little girls and even more adorable cats and kittens in it. What’s not to love?

An honest and compelling tale of enemies-turned-lovers and all the fiery exchanges, moments of contemplation and make-ups that entails. Couldn’t recommend it enough.

[SOULMATE, STAGE RIGHT](#) IS AVAILABLE FROM AMAZON NOW!



CHEESE AND CHIVE SCONES

Sticking with the cheese theme, this was the recipe that won my recent Twitter poll. It's a quick and easy one this time, perfect served warm with a little butter.

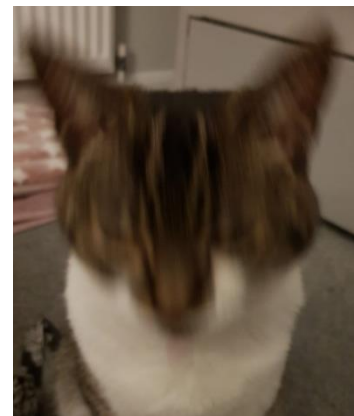
INGREDIENTS

420g self-raising flour
60g cold butter
375ml milk
2tsbp fresh or dried chives
85g grated cheese

METHOD

Rub the butter into the flour until it makes a breadcrumb consistency.
Add the milk, chives and cheese, and stir together with a flat-bladed knife.
When combined, knead gently and press until 3cm thick.
Cut with a round or fluted cutter.
Place on a greased tray, brush with milk and bake for 15-20 minutes on 220C/430F/Gas Mark 7 – or less, if small.

THE (BLURRY) ESCAPADES OF POPPY



Here's a selection of failed pictures taken of Poppy this month. She has a knack of moving *just* at the wrong time. Does your furry friend do the same? Please send me pictures!



*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!