

November News from Cheyenne Blue

November news! Where do I start? Do I start with writing news, the ongoing progression of my bathtub gin project, or that it's still officially only spring in Australia and it's already height-of-summer temperatures and half of the east coast is on fire?

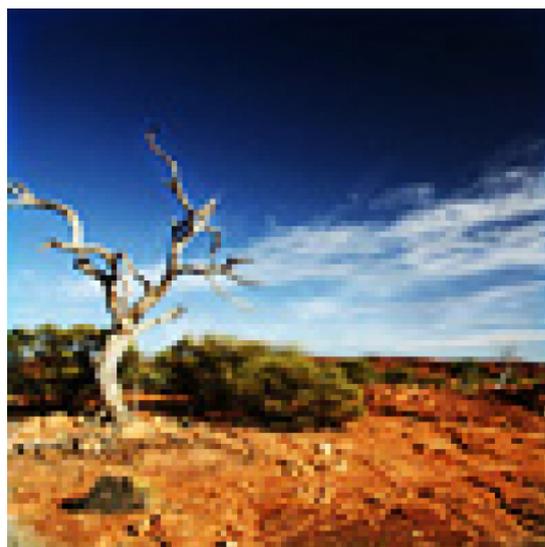
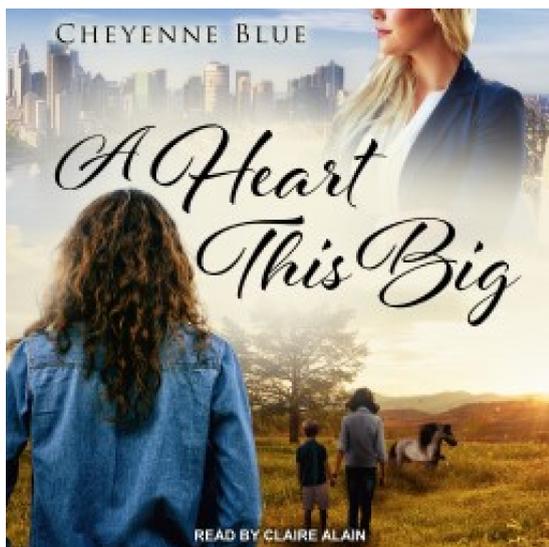


Let's start with the gin. After all, it is gin and tonic weather. The first batch of bathtub gin I made was okay. Nothing you'd serve to a visiting dignitary or even a very picky friend, but quite drinkable. The second batch was better (more juniper berries was the key). For those who don't know, bathtub gin simply takes an existing neutral spirit like vodka and flavours it, in this case with juniper berries, rose petals, coriander seeds, dried citrus peel, cinnamon, and kaffir lime. There's no distilling involved (Although I did meet a checkout operator yesterday in my local supermarket who told me about her cousin who makes a very fine illegal bourbon. You can learn a lot in my town!)

A friend also loaned me a food dehydrator, so I've been busy drying grapefruit, blood orange, lemon and lime to add a bit of class to my less-than-stellar tipple.

Writing news is mainly editing news this month. I've sent back copy edits of my next book, *All at Sea*, to Ylva and I expect them to come back to me again in the next little while. That book isn't out until April 2020. But of course, once *All at Sea* is off my desk again, then it's back to the first draft of the book after that. That's called *Counting the Stars* and it's still in its infancy. I'll be back in the saddle for that one next week.

I've also had the total pleasure of listening to the audiobook of *A Heart This Big*. It's narrated by Claire Alain who also narrated *Code of Conduct*. I loved what she did with that book, but I reckon *A Heart This Big* is even better. I listened on the commute to my day job and I was so caught up in her narration, I have absolutely no recollection of about 50km of highway. If you want to have a listen, you can get it [here](#) or keep reading on for a chance to win a copy



It's giveaway time once more. This time, I'm giving away a signed paperback copy of *A Heart This Big* (I'll post anywhere in the world) and also an audiobook copy. It's a random giveaway, and to be in with a chance, simply send me an email to iamcheyenneblue@gmail.com and tell me if you'd prefer the signed paperback or the audiobook if you win. I'll leave the entries open until 14 December.

Next week, I'm away for a few days housesitting a cattle station a couple of hours from where I live. It's remote, it's as dry as chips right now, and of course water is scarce. I'll be feeding cattle, working dogs, chooks, and the house dogs. There'll also be a lot of time sitting on the veranda at night watching the clear, wide southern hemisphere skies. That last one will be great inspiration for my current work in progress.

That's it for this month. If you want a chance to win either the audiobook or the paperback of *A Heart This Big*, don't forget to drop me a line and tell me which you'd prefer.

Until next month,

Cheyenne xo

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