

## February News from Cheyenne Blue

Hello everyone,

It's been a crazy, busy month since the last newsletter. For most of it, I've been polishing my draft of the novel after next, *Counting the Stars*. It's due at Ylva at the end of next week, and I figure that if I keep getting up at 4.00am, and switch out wine for water, I'll be done in time.



Wine and writing can mix; wine and editing—definitely not!

I'll tell you more about *Counting the Stars* another time, when I can get my head around writing a blurb, and get my mind off convoluted sentences and overuse of the words belly and fingers.

In other news, mango season ended with a bang and a wheelbarrow full of mangoes that I either had to do something with, give away, or throw away. All three things happened (there were THAT many of them), and I now have a cupboard full of two sorts of mango chutney, mango jam, dried mango, and fruit leather. Did you know that mango sap is corrosive? No, neither did I, until I ended up with honest-to-god burns on my forearms from cradling just-picked mangoes. Luckily, it's only the sap that does this. Imagine having to miss out on succulent, juicy, dripping, sweet like a bag of sugar, golden mangoes, because they burn up your innards? What a nightmare!



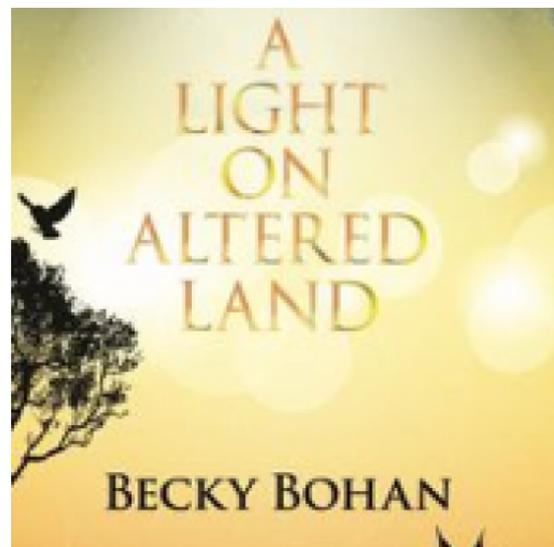
I'm currently reading the final, final, final proofs for *All at Sea* which will be out in April. This is the PDF file proof, and I'm looking for weird spacing, funky punctuation, typos, and teeny-tiny things like that. It's too late for other changes now, so if I want to change Stevie's name to Rusty, or decide to revise a scene, then I'm out of luck.

It's pretty exciting getting ready for a book launch, and it's always a last-minute scramble, for me anyway. Final proofs, blurbs, promo graphics.... Generally, when I think everything possible is done, that's when the email arrives from Ylva asking for more. 😊 No complaints—they do a fabulous job.

Mainly though, I'm looking forward to you being able to read about Stevie and Kaz who end up thrown together on a yacht in the Southern Ocean.

### **Blurb**

**An enthralling, opposites-attract lesbian romance about what lies beneath.**



Last year, I had the pleasure of editing quite a different lesbian fiction book. *A Light on Altered Land* by [Becky Bohan](#) tells the story of Ellie and Kathryn who find each other later in life. This isn't your classic, contemporary romance. It's told in a gentle, literary style, and the unfolding story sucks you in. Ellie and Kathryn's journey touches on themes of aging, illness, self-discovery, unexpected passion, and above all else being true to yourself.

Despite some of the themes, it's a very uplifting book that touches on some current issues (no spoilers here, you'll just have to read the book!), and the choices we make for those we love.

I loved, too, the joy and life that permeated the pages. The occasional Star Trek reference, a journey across the American landscape, and the way that Becky made me believe in these characters and desperately want their happiness, added up to a book I remembered long after the edit was finished.

Stevie Sterling is having a day from hell. Snubbed—yet again—by her unsupportive parents, she runs out on their posh party and takes refuge on a deserted yacht. Waking the next day with the world’s worst hangover, Stevie finds herself far from shore.

As if being trapped on the yacht in only her party dress isn’t bad enough, Stevie’s frantic that she’ll miss the first day of her new job as a nurse. She has so much to prove in her career—to herself and her parents.

The yacht’s cute but unimpressed captain, Kaz Malone—an eco-warrior who hits the seas with Sinbad the cat—is on a mission: There’s a nuclear-waste-dumping tanker to harass.

Kaz is as single-minded as she is stubborn and she’s not about to turn around for some stowaway with a new job. Hell, no. Saving the planet comes first.

But perhaps there’s more than one way to a destination?

Last month’s competition asked you to guess which secondary character from my tennis romance *Code of Conduct* was the main character in my short story *No Going Back* which will be included in Ylva’s anthology “After Happily Ever After”. (Out in April, people, which means I’ll have two books out in April from Ylva!).

The answer was Viva’s nemesis, the rather cool and prickly Alina Pashin.

Not many people guessed right. The most popular guess was Viva’s best friend, Michi Cleaver, followed by Paige Westermeier who knocked Viva out of the US Open. Strangely, no one guessed Serena Williams. I’ve notified the winners. If you want to see the draw (it involved the macadamia tree and a

Here’s the blurb: This contemporary spin on Patricia Highsmith’s *Carol* explores the themes of finding relevance in and acceptance of a changing world. Retirees Ellie Belmont and Kathryn Kepler have suffered life-changing losses. Their chance meeting in a Minneapolis coffee shop sparks a friendship of awakening and renewal. As they embark on a cross-country road trip, their challenges—both external and internal—open them to new vistas of love, passion, and spirit.

Available now at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)!

tennis racquet once again, but also included--sort of--some famous tennis players). Facebook spat the dummy and wouldn't let me post it there, but you can see the video of the draw on [Instagram](#).

No competition this month. I'm scrambling around trying to finish a million things this afternoon, so that I can go out to a newish local gin distillery. I mean, seriously, doesn't that sound good? There's butterfly pea flower gin. I can't imagine what that will be like, but I'll be able to tell you in about two hours, after I've clicked *send* on this newsletter—

Cheyenne xo

**Cheyenne Blue - Author**

Mary Valley, Queensland  
Australia

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