



## April Showers Bring May...books? Yes!

April 2022

Vol. 241

Dear ones,

How are you? Hanging in there? Reading and writing and spending time with your friends and families again? Good. That's good!

You have been so incredibly patient with me every year while I take time off for Lent, and I am most appreciative of this generosity! I am happy to report that my sabbatical has been extraordinary. I closed four doors this past month alone. My 2023 standalone has an official title and is in copyedit now, the 2022 [Joss Walker book](#) is finished and is in copyedit now, the proposal for my 2024 book has been accepted, the proposal for the 2023 Joss Walker book has been accepted, and Taylor #9 is inches from completion and heading to beta readers. [A Word on Words Season 7](#) has wrapped (you can see all the shows [here](#)) and I'm also plotting a couple of short stories. Once that's done, I'll be gearing up to write the 2024 standalone. So yes, I closed four doors, but I opened two more. But that's how we sharks work, ever forward.

These perfect storms happen a couple of times a year, and now with the pen name, too, the convergence is doubled. But I've been practicing letting go of the things that don't serve my primary goal of writing lots of stories, and it's worked wonderfully.

The only casualty has been my reading life, though I did devour a galley of Julia Whelan's latest, [THANK YOU FOR LISTENING](#), which is going to take the fall by storm. It was the perfect combination of story: funny, smart, romantic, poignant, sexy without being smutty... it pulled me out of my slump and threw me right back in, three glorious days of reading later. I can't wait to hear the audio. You're going to love it, I promise.

I've also been working hard to cut back on my caffeine and working on getting lots of exercise. I've been very mindful about how I'm using social media, and right now, things feel really good. I've limited my consumption of current events, too, though the happenings across the world are driving all kinds of story ideas. It's amazing how much mental real estate these sabbaticals

create. So much so that I believe I'm going to move ahead with the same deliberate structure to my time on a more permanent basis.

There's a lot of thought going into my work right now, and as such, I want to ask you some questions to help me make a few decisions! Read on...

## Poll

I would love to know how you prefer to read my books—especially because I am debating how to publish the new Taylor novel. There will be a hardcover and a trade version, as always, that can be purchased from all online retailers and from your local indie and libraries. But for the ebook... You're all familiar with the Amazon Kindle Unlimited program by now, the subscription service that allows for unlimited book borrows. I've been considering putting the new Taylor in this program for the first three months, and then, if there's demand, putting it out "wide" – putting it on sale from other digital retailers like Nook, Apple, etc. There is a large readership for KU novels who might not see the book otherwise, so it is a tantalizing prospect, especially because of the success I've had with it for the Joss Walker books. What that means is you'd only be able to purchase the ebook—just the ebook, not the other formats—from Amazon for the first three months on sale. If you wouldn't mind taking this short poll to help me decide what to do, I would greatly appreciate it!

### What format do you most often read?

I read print books exclusively

I read both print and ebooks

I read ebooks exclusively

## ☐ Read, (er, Watch) All About It...

As I mentioned earlier, I haven't been reading much these past few weeks, if only because I've been in editorial mode and have been rereading my own work relentlessly, and simply want an escape in the evening. As such, here's what I've been watching, instead. You might sense a trend..

[WeCrashed](#)

[Inventing Anna](#)

[The Staircase](#)

[The Dropout](#)

[Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty](#)

I am saving Bridgerton Season 2 and Diana Gabaldon's latest novel [GO TELL THE BEES THAT I AM GONE](#) as rewards for hitting all three deadlines. Speaking of Diana, I have been watching OUTLANDER, but have been experiencing some dismay. I understand the need to make an adaptation appealing for the general audience, and that things always change from book to screen. But there is a particular new storyline that I feel is altering the veracity of the main character herself. They are weakening the hero, in other words, a terrible habit in both fiction and Hollywood that I've spoken about before ([this piece](#) is dated, but the gist is there). The show is still great, and full of lots of wonderful moments. It's just a weird thing that they're doing, and I hope it goes away soon.

## ☐☐ April Recipe: Blueberry Pie with Almond Flour Crust

# BLUEBERRY PIE WITH ALMOND FLOUR CRUST

The blueberries have been plentiful and delicious this year, (and keep finding their way into the new Jayne book-ha!) In an attempt to have a healthy GF and soy-free dessert on hand, I have been making pies. Berries in an almond flour crust sometimes become more of a cobbler than a pie, and I am here for all of it.

SOUNDS DELISH!

You can find all of my recipes [here](#), on the bright and shiny new Recipes website. And if you want some wine to go with the meals, [The Wine Vixen](#) has you covered.

## 📖 Book News



Hey guess what? You can preorder the mass market paperback of [HER DARK LIES](#) now! It's coming out the month before the new standalone (gosh, I am SOOOOO ready to share the title...)

## □ J.T. in The Wild

Over the past few weeks, I've done a few very fun interviews that I thought I'd share.

[Carter Wilson's Making It Up](#)

[Besette With Pets](#)

[Behind the Pen with Patrick Millikin](#)

[Killer Women with Danielle Girard](#) (this is on my Joss pen name)

## □ Contest

Every month, I draw a name from those of you who open the newsletter and send that lovely person a \$30 gift card to the bookstore of their choice. It's my way of saying thanks for being here. Congrats to last month's winner: Karen H!

And don't forget to enter this month's drawing below!

[I WANT THAT GIFT CARD!](#)

Phew. That was a doozy! I look forward to our next visit. Have a fabulous month, read lots of books, and I'll see you in May, if not before...

Peace and hugs,



**Are you still here?**

Here's a kitten for your troubles!



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