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Hello again! First up, some apologies... I tried, I honestly did! I wanted to make sure you saw everything ahead of me posting things on socials, but it didn't happen. Technology decided to be uncooperative. My poor webmaster (husband) bore the brunt of it. We've changed to a new hosting company, which meant going through all the authentication again before I could email you. And it didn't go smoothly... but here we are now!

Apology number one...

You were meant to get the Not My Little Drummer Boy ARC signup link and NetGalley request link first. If you're still keen, here they are below.

**NMLDB ARC With
Hayling Bookstorm**

**NMLDB NetGalley
Request**



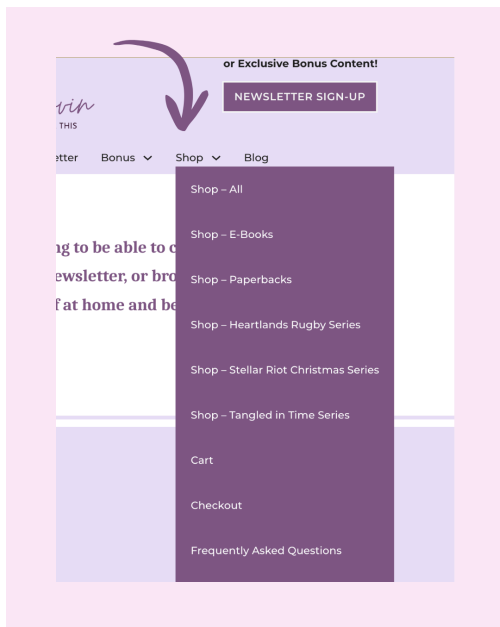
Here's the second thing I missed out on telling you early...

In celebration of Book 2 coming out soon, Book 1 of the Stellar Riot Christmas series, *The Twelve Days of Christian* is on sale for just \$0.99. So if you haven't read it, what are you waiting for?

THE TWELVE DAYS OF
CHRISTIAN

And now to the surprises!

Firstly, the little technology glitch happened for a good reason! Changing hosting service means I can now offer **direct sales from my website**. Those titles not in Kindle Unlimited are available as an ebook.



You can shop by format or series. Ebooks come to you via the team at Book Funnel. Mr C is working hard to get paperbacks up soon. And every time you choose to buy direct, you're supporting a little indie author by cutting out the middle man. Thank you!

GO SHOPPING NOW!

You can have it early

Yesterday I got to hold the paperback proof of *Not My Little Drummer Boy* in my hands and it sure is pretty! As everything went well, I'm **releasing early in paperback**. Perfect for those of you who love the feel of turning pages. Jump over to Amazon on October 23rd.

LINK FOR OCT 23RD



Author Update

I'm excited to say that Chapter 1 of **Sidelined By You** is done! It's from the POV of Quinn Jamieson, my FMC. Born in Cluanie, she left to go to university to become a physio but ended up going into sport. She's now a world class triathlete. Events in the story are sending her back to Cluanie, where she's about to run headlong into Kyle Stewart. Those of you who've read *Blindsided By You* have met him—the army war hero turned local police officer who's infamous for sleeping with most of the girls in his high school form class. Can't wait to start Chapter 2, where we jump into Kyle's world.

In the background, I keep adding notes to my files for all the books I've still got ahead of me—fifteen at last count! Because my head is a very busy place, ideas strike all the time. It's lucky I write. Otherwise I don't know how I'd live with my overactive brain.

Books To Take A Look At

Keeping things musical this month with this recent release from Jenny Cross, **Just Business**.

- Small Town
- Country Music Star X Studio Owner
- Broken Golden Retriever
- He alls first
- Slow Burn to Spice
- Mental Health & Grief Rep
- Forced Proximity
- Found Family

This trope list is like catnip and I've grabbed a copy. I can't wait to start reading. You know how I love a musician! Get your own copy below!

Reading: With hockey season upon us, I'm reading hockey books—again! I've enjoyed Elle Kennedy's **The Play** and Chelse Curto's **Slap Shot**. Both are part of series so there's more to come. I'm also loving my current audiobook, **Shield of Sparrows** by Devney Perry. While I keep imagining my editor giving me a virtual smack on the hand every time I hear the strings of rhetorical questions in this book, they do fit the personality of the FMC, Odessa. She's curious and is often the last person to know about anything going on. Of the romantasy books I've read, she has to be one of my favourite female leads. Her humour and quirky view of the world are so refreshing.

Watching: In our house we're still gravitating to old romcoms, like **Two Weeks' Notice** (yes my husband is a Sandra Bullock fan). Nearly fell off the sofa—I'd forgotten Donald Trump makes a cameo appearance as a not very nice property mogul... We're also tuned into weekly motorsport, which

has been super exciting lately. I just finished the last episode of the **Outlander** prequel, so now we wait for the return of the main series.

Listening: I've got a lot of Swiftie friends so I had to promise I'd listen to **The Life Of A Showgirl**. As always, **Taylor Swift's** lyrics are so strong. I had an amazing night out last week at the **Teddy Swims** concert. His voice is stunning, but he's also such a genuinely nice guy. I've obviously had his music on repeat since then.



I'm all about being honest, so here goes. The last month has been hard. Maybe it's coming down off the high of completing a new book, or maybe it's just the world beating me down, but I've been in a pretty low place. I knew going in this author thing was a marathon not a sprint—and I've always been a sprinter! Even so it's been hard.

Just like in a marathon, when the pain-points you've been expecting arrive, they still hurt.

I struggle with anxiety and when it ramps up, so do two chronic conditions I live with, migraines and a neuromuscular disorder. I've been in the middle of a perfect storm. So I asked myself what I would advise a friend in my situation, and did it!

Today I stayed home from work. I slept late. I stayed in my pyjamas all day. I read a good book. I watched some tv. My darling husband sorted out a couple of niggling cover issues that have been preying on my mind. I made plans to catch up with two writer friends this week. Now I'm writing this and feeling so much better. Not perfect, but better. And I showered and got dressed!

I'm hoping the excitement of a release day coming up on November 6th and the improving weather will be the final medicine I need. That and reminding myself of Dory's advice: "Just keep swimming." I'm loving Dory

right now. Read Not My Little Drummer Boy and you'll find out why!
Hoping to catch you next month as a refreshed version of myself. Take care.