



## Author James Weems Newsletter

*romantic comedies that will make you laugh, cry, and fall in love.*

JAMES WEEMS AUTHOR

### Newsletter #004—August 8, 2023

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Whew—we made it through July, huh? That was a hot month in too many ways! The Tour de France (who could pedal a bicycle through all that heat and all those mountains—not to mention all those onlookers? - but more on THAT shortly!), a lot of ice cream (consumed purely to keep cool, I assure you!), and some good writing progress. And the start of the Women’s World Cup—*futbol!*—with our US Women’s team doing well early on (yeah, I’m writing this shortly after the opening round....).

I admit, soccer—football to the world—is not really my cup of tea. Until the doping scandals at the Tour de France (topped with Lance Armstrong’s admission that he had used performance enhancing drugs to win), I was a huuuuge supporter of bicycling and bike racing. I mean—guys wearing lycra tights, come on! Makes my mouth water, even now. But Armstrong’s admission tarnished the sport and belittled the race.

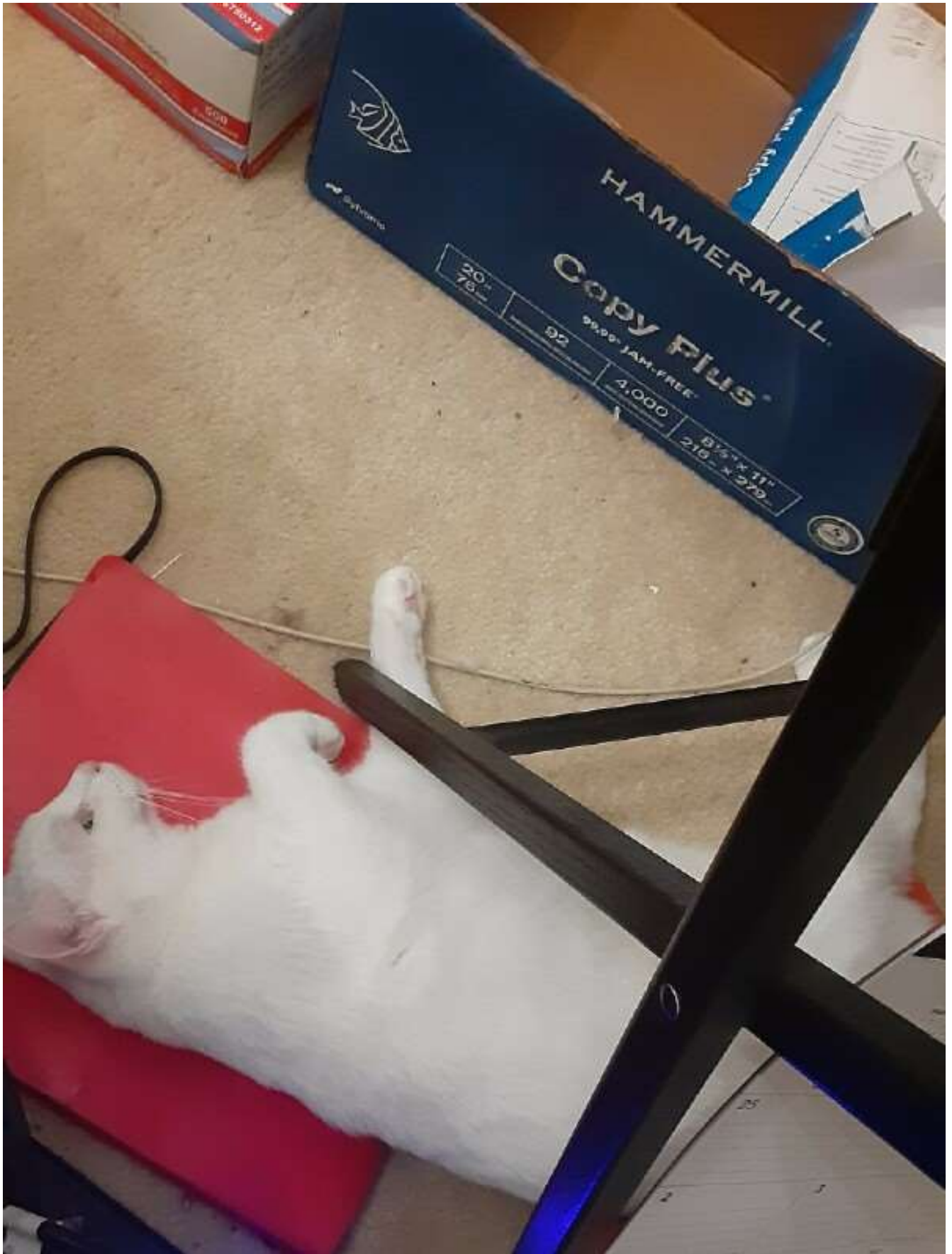
If you’ve never watched any of it, it’s actually pretty cool. It’s been going on for at least a hundred years; the “race” is actually a series of

smaller races, originally set throughout France (hence, the Tour of France). One day the riders might do 100 kilometers in Nancy, France, and the next day they might do sprints in the French Alps. (Those are just examples, not absolutes!) Each year the “Tour” could be different from previous years, but it covered most of the month of July, with the final stage of the race ending in Paris at the Arc de Triomphe on the Champs-Élysées. For as long as I’ve watched or kept up with the race, it has ended at the Arc de Triomphe, a fairly symbolic location; I have actually, many decades ago as a teenager, stood at the Arc de Triomphe. It’s MASSIVE.

July may be Ice Cream month, but all summer long is Ice Cream Season for me, and the easiest way to enjoy ice cream is an ice cream sandwich—or two. Or three. Yum! I’m a fan of classic vanilla inside chocolate wafers, but recently I have seen a “strawberry shortcake” version that I am dying to try.

In spite of the hot weather, or maybe because of it, I have been getting a lot written in scenes for the novel. Still in first draft status, and still in the first half of the overall story, but it’s moving nicely. The characters are all helping by telling me what they need to be doing (for the most part). Every now and then I have to persuade them to give me a bit more information!

By the time you get this, my website has completely moved to its new host platform. So.... That means it’s going to look a bit different, and act better on tablets and phones. Be sure when you enter my website address you type it <https://jamesweems.com> with no “www.” between the slashes and my name. (If you’ve bookmarked my website previously, sorry! You’ll need to change to the new website address.) I promise you I won’t be making any more changes to the name! Ultimately this new website will allow me to interact with you, my readers, even better. There’s already a blog, which I will be updating periodically, a page of Frequently Asked Questions, and ultimately I plan to sell my novel directly to you once it’s published.



So, the editor-in-chief was extremely busy last newsletter, so she didn't even grace it with a picture.... Today we have a remedy! She has taken a break from her "other duties as assigned" – you know, chasing her tail, sleeping, eating, attacking invisible flying things - just to pose for a picture for you. Not too shabby for a kitten who's now a year and 4 months old! She's "practically" full-grown, at least in **her** mind! (The box at the top of the picture is one of her favorite "curl-up" spots!)

I am scaling back my involvement with Twitter, or X, or whatever Elon Musk is calling that social media platform he bought. It has been disintegrating into basically a poorly-kept back-roads gas-station restroom, in all the worst ways. I've left my user name and such "active" to prevent someone hijacking it, but I've X'd my last tweet, or tweeted my last X, or whatever, at least for the near future. Instead, find me on Facebook, Tribel, Post.news, Goodreads, and Bookbub, as well as my own website, and here.

Also, you can ALWAYS send me your comments through the website, or by replying to this newsletter, or you can write me at [authorjamesweems@gmail.com](mailto:authorjamesweems@gmail.com). I'll answer you as quickly as possible!