



Author James Weems Newsletter

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

JAMES WEEMS AUTHOR

Newsletter #007—October 10, 2023

Is this newsletter just a ghost of itself, or am I being ghosted?

In this issue:

- why the pride logo has returned to the newsletter
- can you materialize all the ghostly and paranormal terms that snuck into this newsletter?
- October is the start of fall, and the fall of temperatures, boo hiss! (But baseball is finishing with the Fall Classic—that's the World Series, you guys!)
- A few words about the Christmas story I've mentioned and another story
- Update on "The Character Bible" and the free handout from a few months ago
- An easy quiz with at least 3 winners....

Hello again, my friend! Welcome to a—no, I'm **not** going to say "spook-tacular" because that one's been done to death—ghostly good newsletter, full of chills and shrieks (mostly from me, when Angel nips at my toes of fingers—I think she's trying out to replace Nick Frost). We should have some laughs and some good times—just no pumpkin spice for me, thanks; everyone else can have all they want of that particular flavor.

So, the PRIDE logo is back, because this month of October sees Pride Celebrations in Las Vegas, Nevada (going on through October 17), Knoxville, Tennessee (just celebrated Pride on October 7), my

home—Atlanta, Georgia, October 14 and 15, followed by Orlando, Florida, October 21, and Phoenix, Arizona, October 21 and 22. Pride then swings southerly to Buenos Aires, Argentina (southern hemisphere spring, anyone?), October 27 through November 4. Hmmmm.... Wonder if I can get a passport, a laptop, and a decent Zoom connection so I can get away from the specter of cold weather here and join the guys in South America..... [Angel took one look at me and shook her head as if to say, “Not in **any** of my nine lives, bud.”] Oh, well, a guy can dream.

Yes, this newsletter is just screaming full of goblins and ghouls and whatnot—at least in words. (Pictures are *easy* to spot!) Since I AM a writer, I’m using my craft to sneak in Halloween-themed words (or horror-movie-themed words) so you can have a little “scavenger hunt” this time around. See, there’s an easy little quiz at the end, and there will be three winners (at least) picked. So, as you read through the newsletter, note any **eerie** or potentially **macabre** words. I’ll even give you credit for adding “eerie” and “macabre” to your list! Does that give you any ideas what to **pluck** from this newsletter? Word of warning: you **won’t** win an all-expenses-paid round-trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina, so don’t get *too* excited. I’m an author, not the guy who created Amazon!

We’re in October, y’all! I don’t like cold weather. I may have slid that idea in a few times in the past, but let me just make the point bone-chilling (or bone-breaking?) clear. I prefer summer breezes to autumn sneezes! Anyway, October brings Coming Out Day, tomorrow, October 11, so if you know anyone who’s just realizing their sexuality—whatever it may be—give them a kind word, offer them your support, and be a good ally. October also brings more college football and Major League Baseball playoffs, which is more my style. Go Braves! (Yes, Morticia, I **am** a native Atlantan, you know!) But also, congratulations to the Baltimore Orioles, Los Angeles Dodgers, Milwaukee Brewers, Houston Astros, and Minnesota Twins – the Division winners, and the Philadelphia Phillies, Florida Marlins, Arizona Diamondbacks, Tampa Bay Rays, Texas Rangers, and

Toronto Blue Jays—the Wild Card teams. By the end of the month, it will be a battle between one National League team and one American League team for the World Series championship. I'm cheering for my Braves to go all the way to November 3 or 4!

Alright, before you break out the chainsaws on me, let's move on to something more enjoyable for all. I had started a Christmas story which I hoped to have ready for this Christmas, featuring Ravynn and Benji returning to New Orleans. I ran into a bit of a "writer's block" so I paused the story.... It was more important to get the novel scenes going. I didn't butcher the Christmas story, I just paused it. So, shortening this tale a bit, the novel scenes picked up, and I feel better about that, so I am going to look into working on the Christmas story again. It might still get delayed until next Christmas, because ultimately, I want to get the novel ready for you as soon as I can—and we're close. Really close. Like, only about twenty scenes to go until I write "The End" on the final scene! I know, it seems sudden—a few weeks ago I was saying we had hit the halfway mark. Well.... Here's what happened: magically, looking at the scenes I had planned for the rest of the novel, there were a TON of scenes that didn't do much except take up space. Kinda like bad zombies in a grade C horror film, they were there, but unnecessary. So I killed them off, compacted the remaining scenes, and my book coach and mentor agreed that it made perfect sense. So not the novel is actually at about 70 to 75% complete, just by those scenes biting the dust. (And don't cry for them, Argentina—they never existed except as ideas, anyway.) And, just to show my brain has slammed its way through that writer's block, I got a message about an Anthology of stories about Rome (Italy, not Georgia); so I will be submitting a short story for consideration. Keep your fingers crossed for me! I'll let you know once I know.....

You have, by now, noticed that when I promise "a few words" it can easily become a dozen sentences, right? If you ever feel like I'm chattering on too much, you can always hit the unsubscribe link below. I won't hold it against you, but you'll miss out on all the fun of these newsletters and whatever comes next! (And speaking of newsletters

and what comes next, I've added a page to my website with all the newsletters, most recent one first. This one will be at the top soon.)

The Character Bible—and the handout I created from it, which you may have gotten the first version of—is still a work in progress. It's as close to finished as the novel is, though, so I hope to have it ready—completely—by the end of the year. From my lips to the AI art app's "ears" hopefully! (Do apps have ear? And does AI really listen? Inquiring minds—worried minds—want to know.)

The next newsletter will arrive in your inbox in three weeks, October 31, 2023.... Benji Travers' birthday.

Here's the quiz: Hit the email button (or send an email to authorjamesweems@gmail.com) and list all the words you found in this newsletter that relate to horror movies or scary things. If I've used a word more than once, you can list it more than once! (If you list a word I didn't use, no penalty other than it just doesn't count.) As promised, there will be at least 3 winners. Winner's choice of Amazon or Apple \$10 electronic gift card....

See you in three weeks, my friend!

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