



## Author James Weems Newsletter

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

JAMES WEEMS AUTHOR



Newsletter #011—January 2, 2024  
THE END. (Well, sort of....)

Before I dig into that title, let me apologize! I failed to sufficiently wish you Happy Holidays in my last newsletter - waaay back in the dark days of mid-December of last year. Sorry!

Now, on to this year's first newsletter!

It is, in fact, THE END. The first draft, in its **roughest** form, is complete. But don't go looking for the book to be published yet! Oh, no.... We're still early days on that. Right now we're "polishing" the hidden jewel. Smoothing the rough edges. Trying to fill all the plot holes. Once that's done, **Phoenix Rising Book 1** will move into the next phase of its existence, where it will morph from the second coming of *War and Peace* (if you don't recognize the title, just understand it's a very, very, very, v-e-r-y loooonngg book) into a decent-sized romantic comedy. Kind of like a caterpillar crawls into a chrysalis and emerges later as a beautiful butterfly—while shedding one skin for another—the book will lose probably half or more of its words, but emerge ready for one more flight of editing, then proofreading. After all that, advance readers get first looks at the book in exchange for an honest review (authors love to have reviews of their books, especially good, honest ones), and shortly after that, it's publication day. [You can wake up now, this lesson on the history of book publishing has concluded!]

So, other than getting the book scenes ready for the next big step, what have I been up to? I'm still working on the Character Workbook I first mentioned several months ago. My software has been determined to make all the guys look so much alike that I have to stop after two or three to be able to freely create the images of the characters. I'm getting close to having them all finished, though. You might get the full booklet by Easter, if my software agrees! Another project I have started examining is putting together a sort of cookbook or recipe booklet based on the foods mentioned in all the stories about the group so far. It would be more than just a cookbook, with little vignettes of the guys—or other characters from the pertinent story or stories—to "spice up" the recipe. I've also got some ideas for **future** books in the *Phoenix Rising* universe—there's a potential love interest for DC and another for Todd introduced during book 1. Beyond that, there are a few other stories from Ravynn and Benji lingering in my mind....

You probably also remember the mention of the **ROME** anthology I have a short story in. I'm *still* waiting to be told it has been released, so it's out there, but I'm not sure what the timeline is right now. I will warn you again, you'll get a special newsletter to announce its release as soon as I know "It's Alive!"



Speaking of *alive*, here's a couple of other "live" things: one, I have a NEW "Cover" image for my Facebook page....



And the second item, more importantly, is that I am currently running a fundraiser for the Trevor Project as my "birthday" present to myself.



Please help me help young LGBTQ+ kids have a resource that might save their lives. Any amount you donate will be tremendous, and I'll appreciate it so much (all funds go to the Trevor Project, through a

Facebook/PayPal collaboration). Angel says you should do it so she won't have to come "persuade" you!!

Last but not least, this email *might* look a bit different from its previous versions. If you track these things, my email provider, Mailerlite, has upgraded their system, and I'm creating this newsletter using the new system.... So I may goof or glitch here and there. Hopefully by the NEXT email I'll figure it all out! The next "regularly scheduled" email is January 23, 2024, so between now and then, happy birthday to Ravynn St. John, Sean Alexander, Rod Stewart, and myself, all January 10; Elvis Presley, January 8. Then there was a President who resigned in disgrace whose birthday sandwiched between Elvis and me.... And Happy birthday January 15 to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and on January 17 to Muhammad Ali, born Cassius Clay. I'm not even going to try to cover all the birthdays, or this newsletter will become the size of the old Sears Christmas catalog. (If I'm saying things you don't remember, write me back, and I'll tell you!)

As always, if you decide you don't want to hang around with me any longer, please hit the UNSUBSCRIBE link below!