



Author James Weems Newsletter

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

JAMES WEEMS AUTHOR

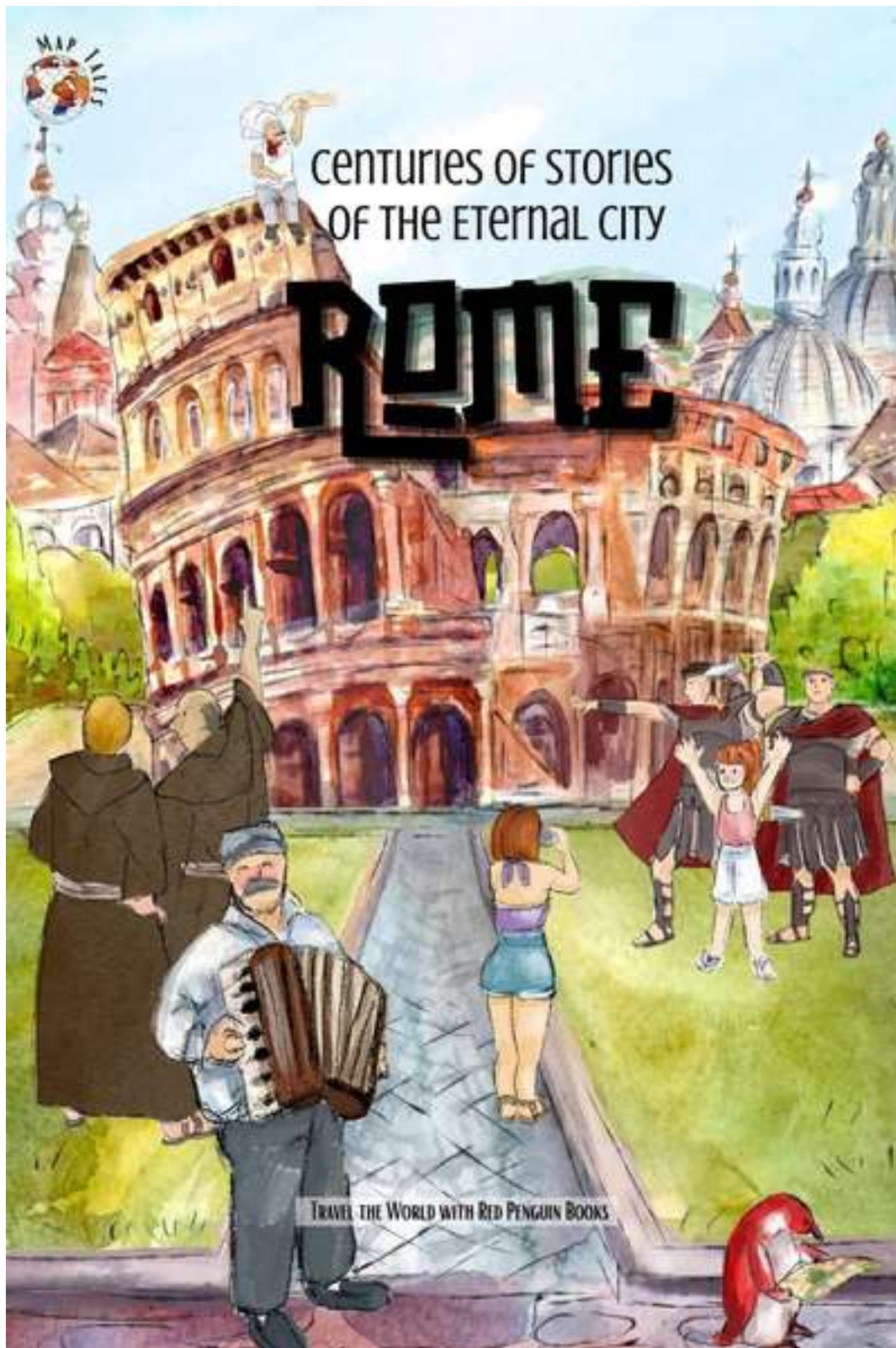
January 23, 2024

Well, THAT was pretty quick!

In this edition:

- More information about the ROME anthology
- Update on the novel's progress
- Future ideas and plans for the rest of the year
- Question!

Before we jump into the meat of this newsletter, can we just agree that SOMEONE put this year on super-fast-forward? Come on, it was like two days ago we were talking about Christmas 2023, now here we are almost done with January 2024! Sheesh! I know the old saying is "Time flies when you're having fun," but my goodness, we haven't even had the final words on the final version of the first draft of the novel yet, so it's not like we're just going bonkers here! ***Taking a deep breath here!*** Okay, that helped. Now, back to our regular news and stuff!



You *should* have received a special newsletter from me about the anthology. It has been published! Yay! (Cue the champagne, confetti, beignets, and so on) If you **haven't** gotten a copy yet, it's available at **Amazon** in both [ebook](#) and [paperback](#); **Barnes & Noble** in both

[ebook](#) and [paperback](#); and in paperback format at [Bookshop.org](#) or [Walmart.com](#) (click the appropriate links to be taken to an external page). Just so you know, if you purchase a copy, I *might* make a few cents off your purchase.

The novel is so close to a full, final first draft—i.e., ready to be whittled down to book size for submission for publishing—that I’m like a proud papa in the delivery room, ready to start stuffing cigars into everyone’s hands or mouths.... Okay, maybe not quite **that** delirious, yet, but close. My fantastic book coach—Heather Davis (have I ever told you she’s my book coach? If not, my bad!)—has helped me take a story that tried (and failed miserably) at being a contemporary romance, and from that we’ve carved out a romantic comedy that’s long on story and interactions (and food), and hopefully full of characters you’ll love (or love to hate in a few cases) as much as I do. It’s got comedy ranging from light humor to (hopefully) laughing-out-loud for real. I’m really proud of the words I’ve written on this epic journey and I can’t wait for you to have a chance to read them! [Keep watching—I’m hoping to be asking for “advance readers” before too long!]

The editor-in-chief, Angel, has been busy. She’s trying to rearrange my bedroom with only moderate success—so far all she has managed is to claw my left index finger through the quilt, blanket, and top sheet the other night... fortunately *not* “painting” my bed (or me) red in the process. She’s been entirely too concerned with finding things to attack (see “finger” above) or items to rearrange (several neatly stacked items offended her view, I guess, so they were toppled and scattered, and had to be relocated), so no new pictures to share—though I *am* thinking of giving her a second name. How does “Desdemona” strike you? (Because if you remove the “Desa” you have her alter-ego....)

I have several projects that are ongoing or that I have just started. Topmost is the Character Bible. It’s been sort of in limbo due to the rush to get the final scenes ready for Heather’s viewing (plus the holidays, and the Rome anthology). I am planning to get it as close to finished as possible by the end of March, if not sooner. There are

actually very few characters left to add to it, but getting the image from my head into the software and then into the Character Bible is the trick. Next up is a companion book to the prequel, novel, and Christmas story. It will be a combination “cookbook” (but not in a traditional sense), travelogue, “diary” or journal of sorts, and a compendium of outtakes and extras from the novel and the two free books. By “cookbook” (not in a traditional sense) I mean there will be some recipes with fully developed cooking guidelines, but others may be less complete or less involved. The recipes involved will all tie in with foods mentioned in the books, and there will be commentary from Benji or Ravynn and possibly from other characters as well. The travelogue aspects will give perhaps deeper information on traveling to and from New Orleans by train (from the prequel), as well as more information about the tour itinerary from the novel.

Another future project I have done a little work on is a potential ***Phoenix Rising Book 2: All in the Family?***—which I will tell more about later. For now, I’m still trying to get ***Phoenix Rising Book 1: The (Un)Official Carica-Tour*** (current “working” title) launched. If the title doesn’t make sense to you, re-read the prequel, then play with the last word of the novel’s title.... Or, get the novel when it is available, and, like my grandmother used to say, “Everything will come out in the wash.”

On *that* note... I’m pretty much talked out for now. (Yeah, yeah, don’t get *too* happy about it!) I do, however, have a question for you. PLEASE answer by clicking one of the options under the question, okay? (Your answer will be counted, but your name will be kept private.)

The question: After the current novel is written, what would you rather see me write next?

[Phoenix Rising 2]

[Cat Shifters]

[Bisexual (M/F) Erotica]

[Other: _____]

The next newsletter will arrive on February 13, 2024. Yes, ***Mardi Gras!*** Who knows what kind of magic and fun might occur then....

Other than the fact that I will be traveling that day, so *hopefully* all the proper switches are set and everything. If you **don't** hear from me on February 13, I'll make it up to you on Valentine's Day. (No, I am **not** sending you a box of chocolates, or a dozen roses. Neither of those work well in electronic delivery systems, you know?) And, as always, if you decide you don't want to hear from me anymore, just click the **unsubscribe** link below, okay? Otherwise, laissez les bontemps rouler—Let the good times roll—and see you February 13!