

## Author Newsletter 014



### Author James Weems Newsletter

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

JAMES WEEMS AUTHOR

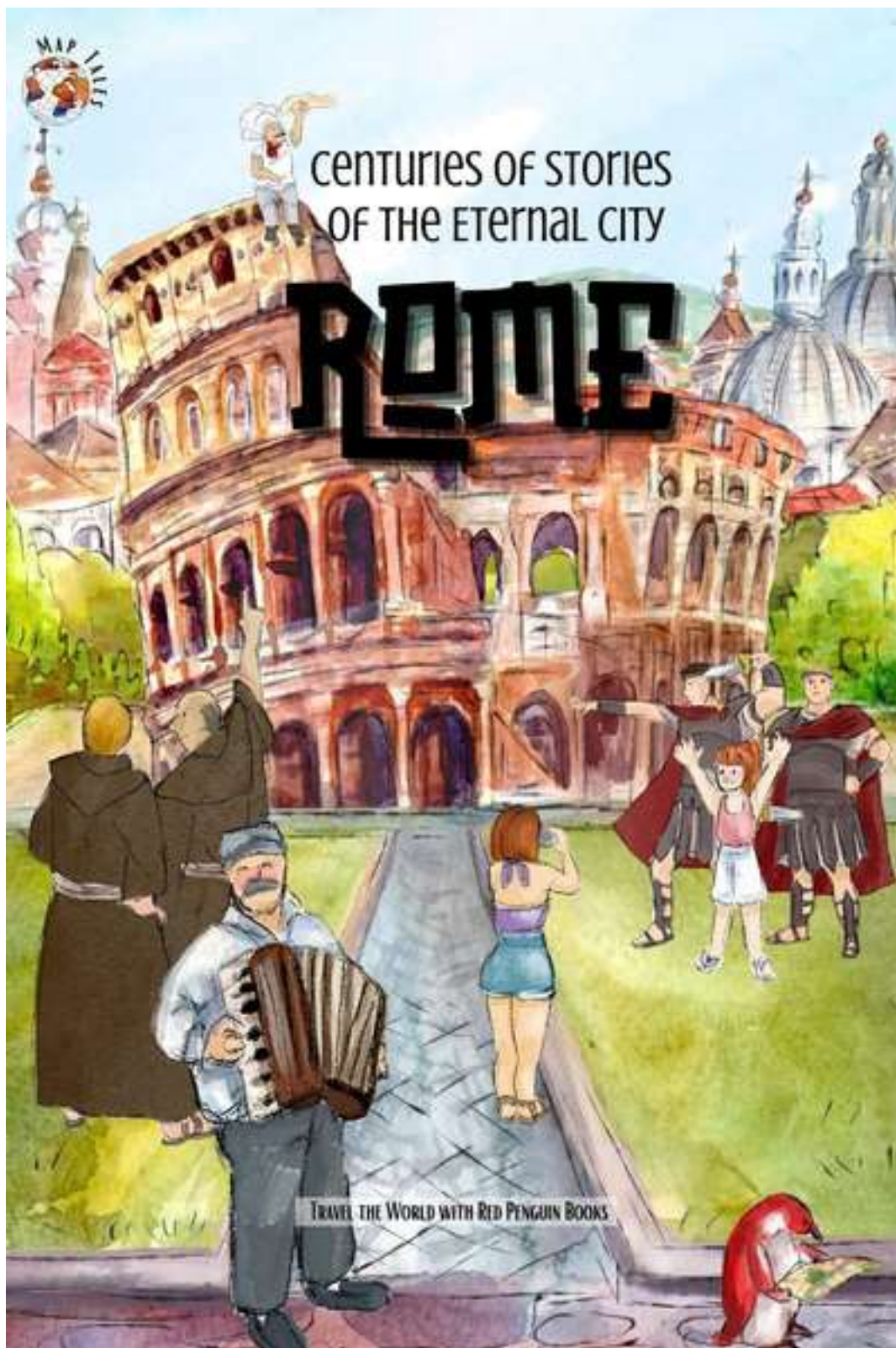
March 5, 2024

### ***Beware the Ides of March!***

The Band is *really* on the run! (At last....) I'll tell ya more shortly. But first.....

Wow, where did January and February go? I mean, it feels like only yesterday we were toasting in 2024, and now we've torn two whole months off the calendar (if you have one of those wall thingys, that is), or erased a bunch (if you're using dry-erase calendars), or.... Well, you get the idea. Time has flown.

So here we are in the first full week of March, staring down the last vestiges of Winter (thank heavens for that!) and seeing the first—or in some cases, the thirtieth—signs of Spring popping out. My allergies aren't amused, but bring on the warmer temperatures, for sure! I'll deal with the sneezing and wheezing (if you guys will pardon me), just let me escape the freezing! (At least I've still got my cheesy poetic twists, huh?)



Speaking of **cheesy**, I just want to remind you (cheesy tie-in with the subject line and all) that the anthology is still available at Red Penguin Books, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop.org, and Walmart.com. It's published by Red Penguin Books, and I'm still just blown away to be a



part of the collection of short stories, pictures, and poetry in the anthology—even if it's not my usual genre of writing. My short story is a true memoir (well, as true as you can get, remembering something from 50 or more years ago), not gay fiction, so just a warning – but I'd be honored if you decided to add it to your e-book or paperback collection because of me.



As you can see, Editor-in-Chief Angel was so bored with my last few comments, it put her to sleep. Oh, well....

Now for something novel! Yes, news about the novel! As I write this, I am beginning the process of turning “all the words” into a novel-sized story that will be fit for publication and reading, eventually. No, Virginia, this will

NOT be “War and Peace: The Remix.” It’s going to clock in at a decent length for an entertaining romantic comedy. That means no more than 90,000 words! (Please don’t ask me how many pages that will be, because font sizes, page sizes, etc., etc., etc.) I can promise you this: It’s going to have a Happily Ever After. And *maybe* some hints at future stories, in case anyone’s interested. And things you **hopefully** read and enjoyed in the prequel and the Christmas story might just be tied in, somehow....

Oh, yeah. Forgot to mention, the **current** working title is (drumroll, maestro, if you please....) **Phoenix Rising Book 1: Band on the Run**. Yeah, as much as I liked “The (Un)Official Carica-Tour” as a possible title, it was *too wordy, too far from all that’s happening in the book, just not the best fit*. While the title could *still* change, **this** title ties in so much and so **well** with the story that I think it just might stick. We’ll see – I am *fairly certain* this baby will be “birthed” sometime before December 31, 2024.

The plan (in my mind, at least) is to get the editing process done by the end of June at the latest. Then I’ll need some beta readers—critical eyes—to make sure there are no “holes” in the story. Once that’s done, it’s on to ARC land—Advance Reader Copies, publication, and widespread availability—in short, that will be when I go more than a little crazier than I normally am. Fun times!

Just so you’re aware, if you want to be an Advance Reader, you’ll get a FREE advanced copy (as in, mostly the “final” version, but it COULD change slightly) of the book, with the agreement that you’ll read it and post an HONEST review in selected sites (like Amazon, Goodreads, and others). Typically you’ll have about a week to read the book and post the reviews, so consider all that before you sign on as an ARC reader! And if you’ve never given a book review before, it’s not too difficult. You don’t have to analyze the main characters (unless you want to), just comment on what you enjoyed—or didn’t enjoy—about the book; what “pulled you in” or “pushed you away.”

Now, I just need to get busy on the edits, and start working on covers and the blurb and everything else that will need to be ready soon. June is NOT that far off!

Oh, yeah—I almost forgot two very important details! First, as always, if you decide this isn't your cup of tea, just hit the unsubscribe link below, okay? (Please don't send me to Spam—it causes Google and other email providers to think I'm sending out junk, which I try not to do!) Second, there will be another newsletter this month, on March 26.... which means I need to wish y'all a Happy St. Patrick's Day, and welcome Spring (March 20 or 21, officially). See you in three weeks!