

Author Newsletter 015



Author James Weems Newsletter

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

JAMES WEEMS AUTHOR

March 26, 2024

Fancy a Bit of Rock and Roll (history)?

Stuck inside these four walls.... Yeah, the winter pretty much makes it feel that way, huh? So here we are, a few days after “Spring has sprung.” And what’s happening? Well, the rain exploded with a mighty crash as we fell into the sun. Ummm, I don’t know, sounds a bit severe, doesn’t it? You don’t really mean you fell into the sun—that’s a bit too hot! I doubt you’d be here telling us about it, would you? The jailer man, and Sailor Sam, were searching everyone. Hmmm, was there a jailbreak somewhere that I missed? Something BIG happened?

Band on the Run

For those of you who are close followers of rock music, the lines in that first paragraph should have gotten you thinking about a 1973 song and album from Paul McCartney and Wings entitled *Band on the Run*. The lyrics of the song, the artist performing the song, and the images of the song led me to title my first novel ***Phoenix Rising Book 1: Band on the Run***.

I’m hoping to have a cover reveal for you before *too* much longer (ooh, the suspense! The anticipation!) - after years of talking about it, this project is getting SO CLOSE to being a “done deal”....

Now, for a bit of fun—if you’d like! (You can skip the next two paragraphs if you feel so inclined.)

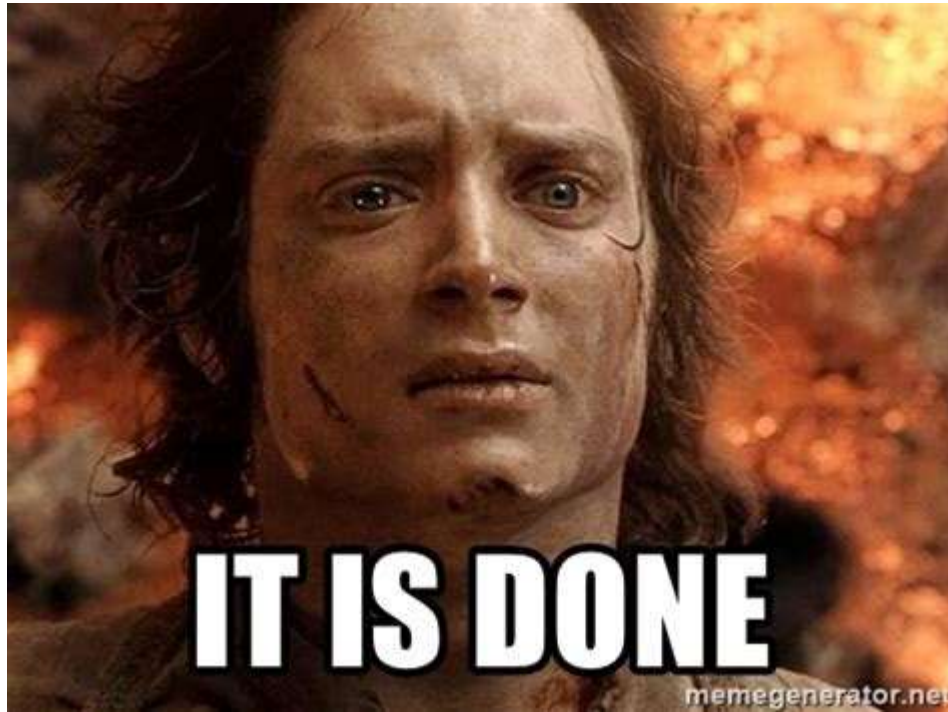
Welcome to the long and winding road! Something tells me that those of you willing to follow the fool on the hill might need a little help. Me, I'll follow the sun and buy a ticket to ride on the magical mystery tour. It's the one after 909. I bought it yesterday from a woman named Michelle. She's a woman who will wait for no one, I want to tell you! I'm so tired, I'm only sleeping, boys. Girl, let me tell you the word while my guitar gently weeps. Now and then, all you need is love, eight days a week, from me to you, sexy Sadie.

Okay.... For those of you thinking I've finally gone 'round the bend completely, that hodge-podge is a whole lotta rock & roll history going on! If you look carefully—and if you're a follower of a certain group of musicians from Liverpool, England—you'll find twenty-five song titles covering over sixty years. Need hints? The group in question is The Beatles. All the song titles are from readily-available recordings, though a lot of them may be older than you, dear reader! (I could've made it easy and only used the titles of their top hits, but where's the fun in that?) You want more hints? Okay, there are five 5-word titles (including "The Fool on the Hill"); three 4-word titles; eight 3-word titles (including "Magical Mystery Tour"); two 2-word titles (one is "The Word"); and seven 1-word titles (including "Girl" and "Boys").

Moving on to more exciting things! I'm staying busy these days—after four exciting (and hectic) days attending the **Women in Publishing Summit**, I have been spending my days and nights editing the novel. What? You thought "Women in Publishing" meant **only** Women attended? I must admit, I was one of just a handful of guys in the online crowd, but the premise of the conference is about Women presenters, women-led businesses. I can totally understand and support that! Besides which, the conference is **always** such a blast! Yeah, this was my second year. I had joked at the 2023 conference that I felt like an "honorary" woman, and a few of the attendees and presenters welcomed me back as an "honorary" woman again. **Side note:** The closing session on the final day? Wow! ALL these women—attendees and presenters alike—know how to "par-tay!"

The **biggest** result of the conference is that I have figured out a lot of my future plans. My *immediate* goal is getting the novel down to "fighting" weight, 80,000 to 90,000 words, then formatted into ebook and

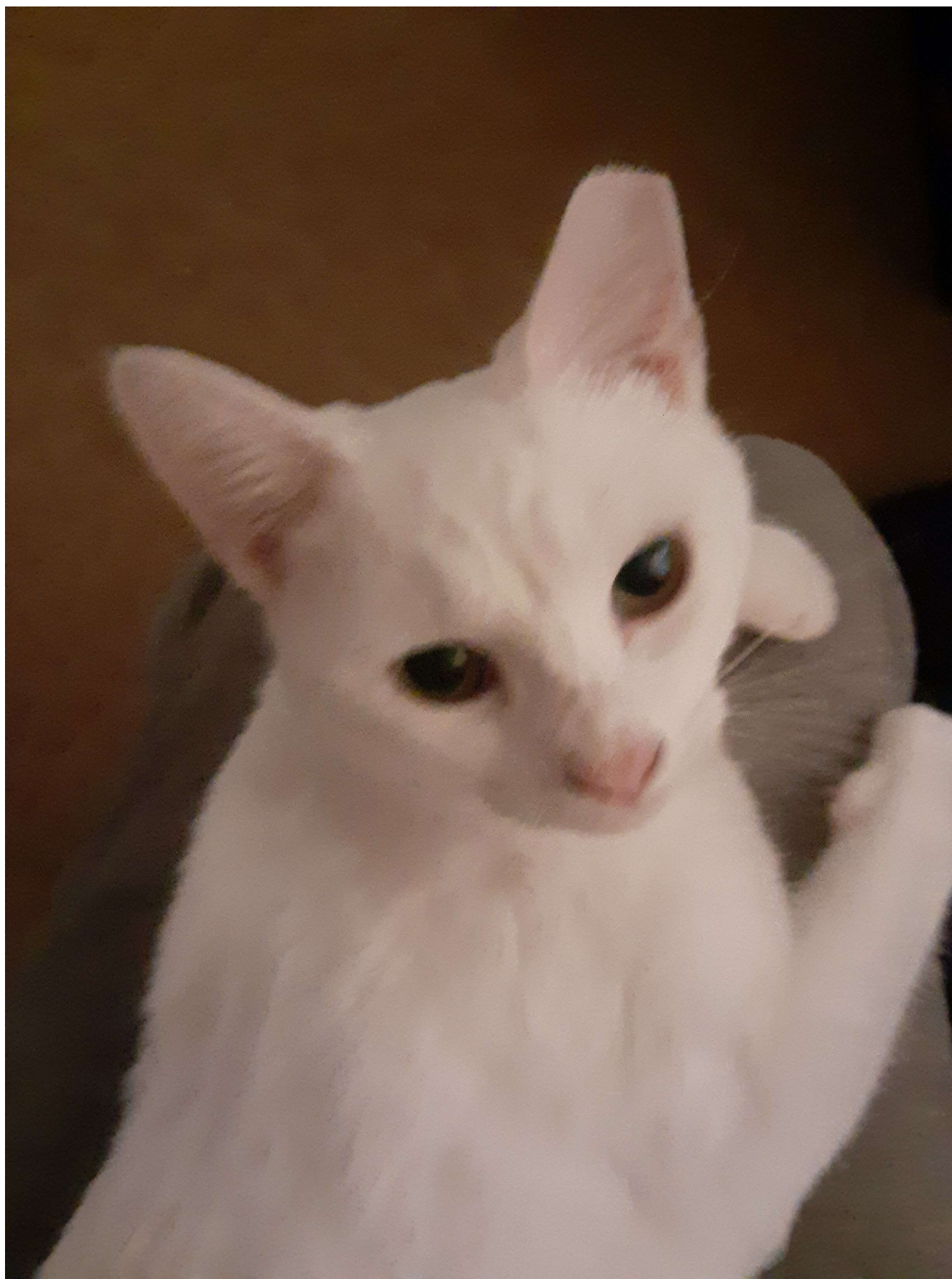
paperback versions—and, possibly, hard cover as well, if there's an interest. (I found a publisher, yippee!) I will ALSO be updating the prequel and the Christmas story, so all my books in the “Phoenix Rising” world will have a unified feel and look..... and all of my books will be “branded” with the logo of **Gambit's Angel Publications**, my publishing imprint.



As I have mentioned, the rough first draft is finished. Originally it clocked in at over 147,000 words—in other words, almost enough for two full books. Now, I'm editing that draft to cut it down to a decent-sized book. For those of you who are wondering, ALL the words are being kept—some may “pop up” in later books, and it's always possible that somewhere down the way there will be an “Uncut” version for those of you who want “All. The. Words.”

If you've been reading these periodic blasts from me for any length of time, you know that I have shared books I've read as sort of recommendations for you. In the next few months, I am going to be sharing, with other authors, my prequel—so you'll see a promotion in April for FREE gay (M-M) romance books, including my very own **Benji's Bayou Birthday Bash**. It's a way to add more subscribers to the mailing lists of these authors, so you'll get the same deal with them you got with me—a book of theirs for your email, so they can write you letters. I promise I

won't consider it cheating if you join another mailing list! I'm also looking to join a promotion for Pride Month, June....



With all that neatly wrapped up, I think the Editor-in-Chief has approved this edition for your reading, so I'll let you know the next "regularly scheduled" newsletter will be April 16.... but since the group promo for FREE books runs from April 1 through 30, I'll send you a special newsletter on April 2 to remind you of ALL the FREE books....

Oh, yeah, almost forgot—Happy Spring, and Happy birthday to the Editor-in-Chief, Angel, who will turn 2 years old on April 1. Now, as always, if you decide this newsletter isn't your thing, hit the "Unsubscribe" link below, and you'll be gone, but never forgotten (and no hard feelings). Of course, that means you'll miss what's coming *next* issue!! But, no bribes. Thanks for being part of my writing journey!

