



## Author James Weems Newsletter

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

JAMES WEEMS AUTHOR

July 9, 2024

Welcome back, my friend! (If this is your **first** “regular” newsletter after my rapid-fire opening sequence of three, do NOT panic. We’re not starting another of those.) So, “Pride Month” is officially in the books for this year, along with – can you believe it? – half the year! Weren’t we JUST toasting in the New Year a couple weeks ago? Maybe it’s just me.

In case you hadn’t guessed, the Pride Calendar still has a few months to go before it’s empty. Yep, here in “Hot”lanta (boy, is this place living up to THAT nickname! As I write this, at nearly 8 pm, it’s 98 degrees. I like warm weather, but if late June and July are like this, August and September are going to be doozies. - *glossary to follow....*) all my LGBTQIA2S+ friends are waiting for the “cooler” temperatures of October to celebrate Pride. The point is, PRIDE is not a one-day deal. It’s a life, a feeling. It’s OUR life. Celebrate it (or fight for it) every day! Okay, I’m stepping down from my soapbox now.

For those of you just getting into the “normal” flow of things – or for those of you like cousin Morticia on the back row who’s too busy checking out her Spotify playlist to pay attention to anything else unless it’s truly earth-shattering, let me ease your mind about how often I’ll be visiting your Inbox. As a general rule, you’ll see a newsletter like this every three weeks. If something really spectacular – like FREE BOOKS, or a book launch (more about THAT shortly!), or something similar that you might enjoy – comes along, I’ll send a

Special “Unannounced” Newsletter. But I don’t plan on being like the politicians who, once they get your email, it’s like they start moving in, lock, stock, and barrel. (My inbox gets more traffic than the bars at happy hour, just sayin’! - And it’s all “Can you send us...” messages.) Excuse my little rant there.... Anyway, according to the calendar, if I’m reading it anywhere close to correctly, today is July 9, so there will be a newsletter July 30, August 20, September 10, October 1 and 22, November 12, December 3 and 24, for this calendar year..... But remember that mention of a Book Launch? Right now, if everything continues to progress as it is, I am planning to release ***Phoenix Rising Book 1: Band on the Run*** to the world on October 31, 2024. So, you can almost certainly expect a Special Newsletter on Halloween, October 31, 2024 – also Benji’s Birthday.

Before that day, I still have some polishing to do on the manuscript, and formatting, and beta readers to check it for me.... And then it’s ARC time! Sit down, Morticia! It’s not like that boat from the Bible. This is ARC, for Advanced Review Copy – ordinary readers sign up to read the book (and get a FREE ebook copy!) in exchange for an honest review. (And by honest review, I mean you would write what you felt about the book, whether you like it or not, and you don’t need to write a book itself as the review! You can give stars as reviews – I’m very partial to fours and fives, by the way, but don’t let me sway you!) Once the book is available for Advance Review, I’ll add the news to a Newsletter, or send a Special Newsletter if it’s too long a wait. All you need to do is commit to reading the book and giving a fair and honest review at one or more sites.

If you’re reading this and have had experience as a beta reader, please send me a reply message IF you’d be interested in being a beta reader for a 90,000 word gay romantic comedy, especially if you’ve had previous experiences with LGBTQIA2S+ characters.

Editor-in-Chief Angel wants to remind all of you to send your questions in – don't be shy. The "Ask James" segment is not a joke – I welcome your inquiries! (We have a question this week) your inquiries!



Your Turn...



ASK  
JAMES

<https://jamesweems.com>  
author@jamesweems.com

My FIRST question actually came from three separate readers! Great minds, huh? Oh, the question – “How do you come up with your characters?”

That’s the best question ever! In some cases, I have an idea in mind. I start doodling with the story idea, and the character, or characters, flesh out as I write. However, in the case of the guys from ***Phoenix Rising***, it was totally different. One night in October 2022, as I was

alone in my bedroom preparing to go to bed, a pretty decent faked British accent asked, “So, when are you gonna tell MY story, mate?” I looked around my room to see who was trying to prank me, but no one was there. The voice rang out again, telling me that he would reveal himself – and his mates – once I agreed to tell his story. I was still about 95% sure that I was being pranked, but I agreed, and Ravynn St. John introduced himself, giving me his full backstory as well. Over the course of the next three nights, I met Benji, Todd, Sean, Clay, and Wil, the rest of the group, and they all told me about Greg and DC, their manager and assistant manager. Over another few weeks, Ravynn and the gang had filled me in on what has become the novel that’s getting ready to be published... and they gave me enough extra material there could easily be four or five books in the series.

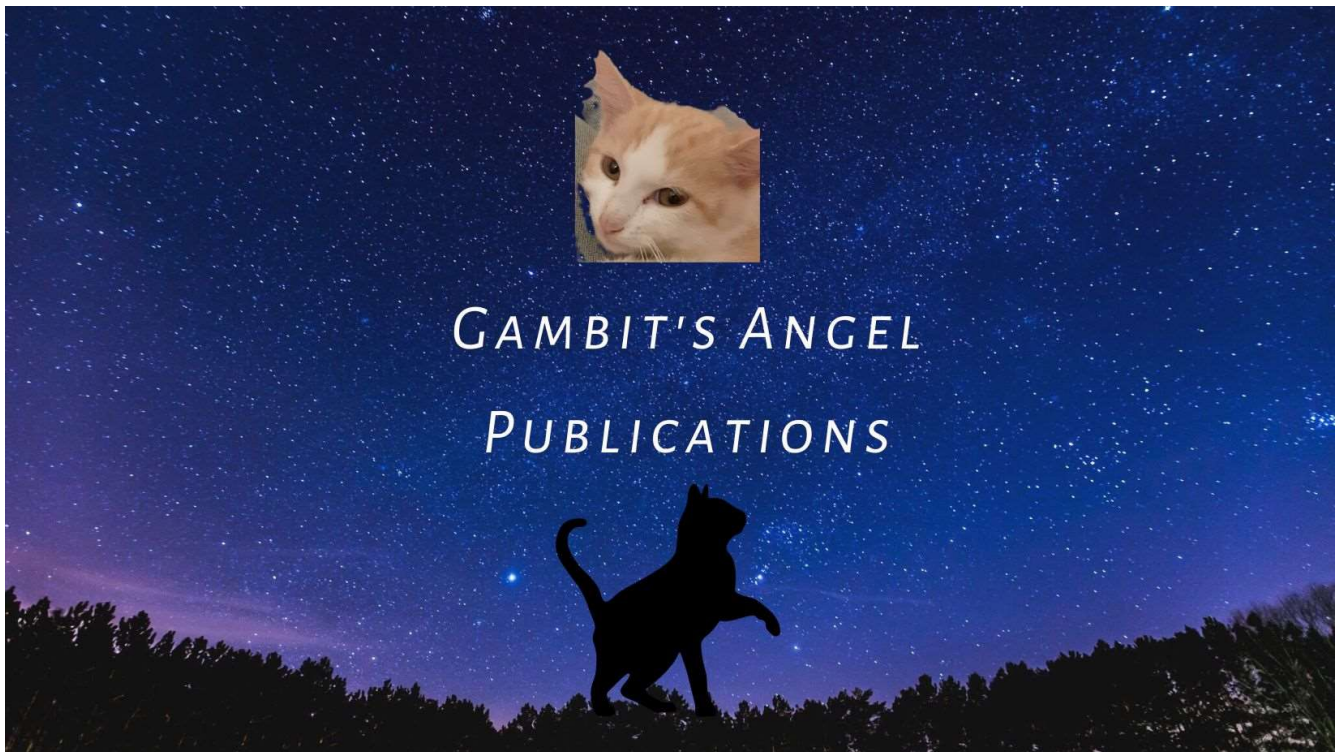
*If you have a question, send it to me via e-mail! I’ll answer ALMOST anything..... You can reply to this message with your question.*

Belated birthday wishes today to Ringo Starr (Peace and Love, Everybody), who celebrated his eighty-fourth (that’s right, 84!) birthday on Sunday, July 7. He hardly looks older than when the Beatles first began “yeah-yeah-yeah”-ing, sixty years ago. Do you think the Beatles really **did** take some kind of Magical Mystery Tour back in 1967, and discovered a fountain of youth? Well, that’s a thought.

That about wraps up this edition! As always, feel free to write me—just reply to this newsletter, or send an email to [author@jamesweems.com](mailto:author@jamesweems.com). I will answer you myself. My “staff” consists of my left hand, my right hand, and a slightly-cranky Windows 11 PC. Rest assured, the answer you get will be from the “real” author



James Weems. And send me any questions! Nothing's off the table – though, if it's too hot for the newsletter, you might have to settle for a personal reply, okay? Our next regularly-scheduled newsletter is July 30. I believe there may be some BIG news about the novel by then! (And ... who knows ...maybe a blurb or cover reveal or BOTH?) Now that I've teased you with that, I'll give you my usual statement that if you really don't feel happy here, please just unsubscribe, using that link below. But... if you do that, you're going to be missing the fun of what comes next! (Still, I don't want you to hang around if you don't want to. Just leave me by clicking "unsubscribe" and I'll wave as you go.)



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