



Author James Weems Newsletter

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

JAMES WEEMS AUTHOR

July 30, 2024

Who hit “Fast Forward” on 2024?

In this issue....

- A belated welcome to all our new newsletter family members!
- A word (or purr) from our editor-in-chief....
- Want to be a Beta Reader?
- Update on the novel... including a (partial) cover reveal!
- Looking forward.....

Before we get into the deep end here, I want to back up a bit and make sure that all of you feel welcome! I did some digging around in my email sender’s records and discovered that I’m no longer talking to “just” a handful of international friends—I have subscribers around the planet. Well, except for Antarctica, the middle of the oceans (though several islands are well-represented!), and places like Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, ... you know, places that aren’t exactly **friendly** to gay-friendly writing. So, hello to Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guam, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom (Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales), along with the United States of America! I feel multinational.... Now, having said that, if you ever decide I’m not a good fit for you, please just hit the “Unsubscribe” link below. No hard feelings, though I’ll miss your smiling face—and you’ll miss all the excitement!



For some of you, this will be a sort-of reminder of how our Editor-in-Chief looked when she first joined me in your Inbox however long ago it was. She's been with me for over a year and is now a rather feisty two-year-old who thinks she's in charge of everything (she basically is). When she's not critiquing my work, or tormenting the birds outside the window, she loves curling up in boxes—the tinier the better. If she barely fits, it's perfect!



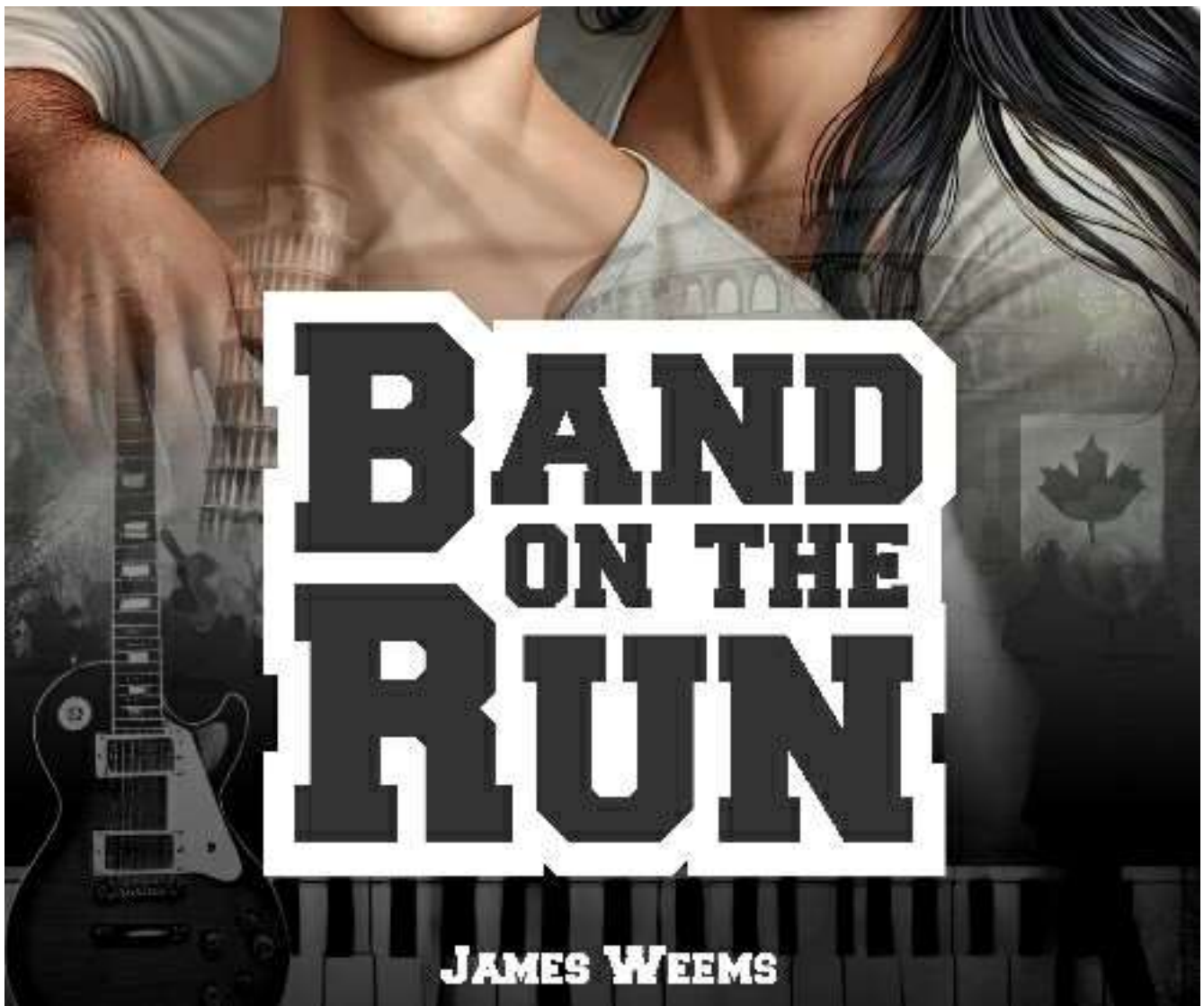
Angel reminds you to send your questions in for the “Ask James” segment of the newsletter. Don't be bashful! If **she** likes the question, she'll make sure it gets answered. If she doesn't like it, **I'll** make sure you get answered! Either way, you'll get an answer.

UPDATE! ***Phoenix Rising Book 1: Band on the Run***

Status: Manuscript is complete, pending proofreading....

Want to be a Beta Reader? Limited openings are available. You **MUST** be sworn to secrecy.... No, wait, that's the spy thriller I was reading last night. Being a Beta Reader is fairly simple, actually; you'll get a copy of the manuscript—along with a set of questions. Your job, should you accept, is to read the questions first, then read the manuscript so you can **ANSWER** those questions. (The questions aren't tricky, and Yes, Cousin Morticia, you can have the questions beside you as you read, if you wish. It's **NOT** a college exam!) There are a few conditions (you **KNEW** there'd be a "**gotcha**," right?): You can't share the book you get, but you can keep it. You need to read it and reply to the questions within **THREE** weeks (the dates are still not fixed at this writing, but it will be August or very early September). If you love reading, and if you love music and quirky humor and talk of food **AND** you have three weeks to devote to this, I'd love to have you be one of my first Beta Readers. As I said, there are limited spots available—this won't be an army of 20 people reading (more like a small group of 3 to 5).

Anyone interested in a cover reveal? Or perhaps a **PARTIAL** cover reveal? My designer isn't completely finished with the cover yet, so I'm not sharing the full picture yet.... But this should give you a little idea!



For those of you who keep up with things like this, here's the "trivia" for the novel: **90,930** words; **10** chapters plus an Epilogue. There are **6** group members, **2** management people, **1** ex-lover, **1** predominant newsman plus several others, **1** precocious French translator, several detectives and bodyguards, including **1** named Robert Preston, like the old movie star.... Also in the story are **12** protesters against the Vietnam War (this novel is set in 1968, remember), plenty of police in America, Rome, Montreal, and Paris, plus bobbies in London. There's **2** caricatures, in San Francisco and Rome. There's also (to borrow a line from the Broadway musical *Oliver!*) "Food, glorious food!" Yep, lots of food throughout the book. There *may* be a companion book under consideration with further information on the foods....

I hear you asking, “What’s next?” So here’s the deal. In the newsletter category, you’ll hear from me again in three weeks—that will be August 20. By that point, the book should be well on its path to publication—as in, it should be in the hands of the Beta Readers, or finishing up with them. After that, any necessary revisions will be made, another quick round of proofreading will follow, then the manuscript gets formatted to become an ebook and a paperback; possibly even a hard cover book. Each is a slightly different format for both the words inside the book and the beautiful covers. At that point, proof copies will be printed and reviewed with a magnifying glass (well, almost) to make sure you get the best quality e-book or paperback (or hard cover, IF I greenlight it) possible. Then, it’s time to get everything ready for publication day! You might have to wait until September to be offered a chance to get an Advance Review Copy (ARC) of the book—I’ll include the notice in a newsletter once the ARCs are available. And ALL of the fun and games leads up to Thursday, October 31, 2024—my current date for publication of ***Phoenix Rising Book 1: Band on the Run.***

Your Turn...



ASK
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I guess some of you didn't really believe me that Ravynn just stepped out of my mind and introduced himself. (At least none of you called any mental health experts to come assess my stability, *yet*.) Trust me! Would I really create such a strange story as that? Okay, I get it, with all the other wild stories circulating these days.... Anyway, That's really how Ravynn and the crew from this novel came to be, I promise! There's ANOTHER story idea that came to me, fully-formed, in a dream (or possibly nightmare) several months ago. I have no idea where the story will lead, IF I write it—it starts with a bisexual woman

in a slinky outfit, being rather sexually predatory as she surveys a somewhat-busy room.

As always, if you've got a question about how I write, or anything (almost), send it to me at author@jamesweems.com or reply to this newsletter!

On that note, I'm heading back to my writing den... after I remind you that the next newsletter is scheduled to hit your inbox August 20, so I'll see you then. As always, if you decide this just isn't your "cup of tea" (or other favorite beverage), just hit the "unsubscribe" link below. I'll miss you, and you'll miss all the excitement of these crazy newsletters, but I won't hold a grudge. Thanks for joining me on this journey!

