



# As the Author Learns

Bits & bites about publishing & writing from

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that defy categorizing

## What's Happening?

Life has begun to settle down after the chaos that happened during our move. We're slowly but surely getting accustomed to new schedules and a new town and a new house.

We had all of the usual moving-in flurry of outfitting the cabinets, putting things away, etc. But our furniture didn't quite fit the new place, so we ordered new furniture--from Amazon. We tried some of the local furniture stores, but they were all back-ordered for months because of the pandemic and I didn't want to wait four months for a chair I wasn't sure I'd like (and pay a lot for).

So we took a chance and ordered our furniture online. It came within a few days and overall, I'm happy with it. Our couch is not what I expected, but the chairs are marvelous. Who knew you could just shop online for chairs and couches? I guess it's like the old days when people ordered entire kits for homes from an online catalog and built them. Maybe what's old is new again?

Now that the interior is almost finished and furnished, we can look at landscaping. I have ideas (of course) to turn the lawn into a garden, and we hope to tackle that this spring. It's early times yet, though. We can get snow into May, and while I doubt we'll have any this year, I'm not in a hurry to put in any annuals -- but perennials might be on the list of things to do, and a tree or shrub. We have a blank slate to work with.

I must admit, I'm enjoying retirement. I'm catching up on my reading by re-visiting some authors I haven't read for a long time and discovering new ones. I'm also exercising, doing some exploring around town, and generally just relaxing and taking my time to do the things I want to do, much of which revolves around writing.

## In Other News

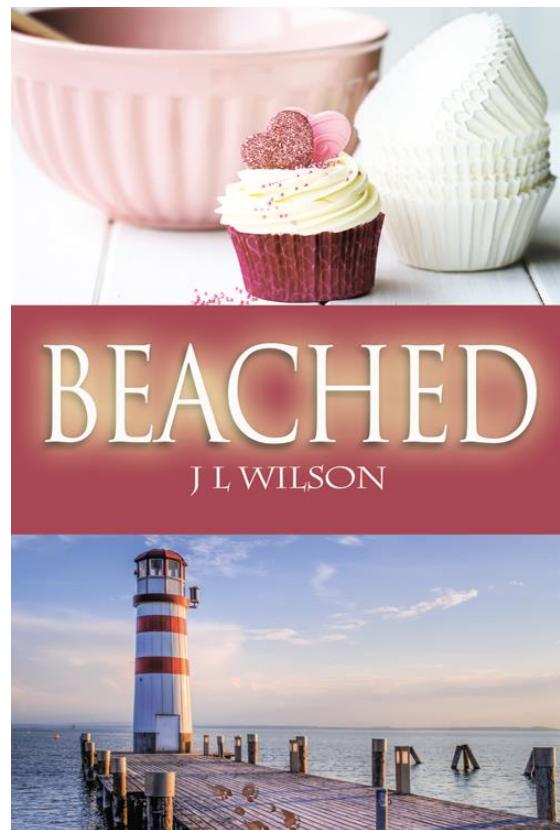
I finished my Rapunzel book (*Heir*), picking up where I left off last year. That took me most of January and February to wrap up. Then I spent a bit of March reviewing it and finishing it. I took a couple of weeks off to finalize edits on my next book, which will release in mid-May.

Ta-da! Cover reveal for *Beached!* There was a bit of a glitch and I didn't see this cover until long after the final edit phase for the cover was passed (somehow my email program misplaced all emails from my publisher -- frustrating!)

But I like the cover and am pleased that all the elements I wanted were incorporated. This is my Little Mermaid book, and it takes place in a lighthouse where my heroine (NOT the Little Mermaid) runs a bakery. The Little Mermaid is the villain in this book because, really, she was a stalker. If you read the original fairy tale, it's very grim (no, not Grimm, it's a Hans Christian Anderson story, not the Brothers Grimm). It's very dark and sad.

As always, I manage to put in a dead body, a great hero, and a heroine who has gone from being an obese, insecure teenager to a slimmed-down, successful businesswoman.

It's available now for pre-order on Amazon and will release worldwide on May 12 online and in print --  
<http://bit.ly/beachedJLW>



## What's Next?

I reviewed my finished manuscripts and I think I'll send in Snow White (*Mirrored*) for consideration for my next Remembered Classics book. In the meantime, I'm going to work on some promotional opportunities for my backlist, and for *Beached*.

I've started reviewing the Big Series I want to publish soon. I'm doing a new kind of review process. I'm uploading the manuscripts to an app where I can review it on my tablet. I can annotate and make notes on the app, then go back and make the edits on my desktop computer.

I've read and re-read these manuscripts several times but I'm \*still\* finding typos and errors I want to fix. That's the beauty of this system. It's like having the printed page in front of me to review a manuscript, but I'm not printing out reams of papers to do it. I always find more things to change when I print a book, but I sure hate wasting the ink and paper. This means I can avoid that process and still be able to get a good review done.

I also want to start working on the covers for this series. I have a 3-book group (the Celestial Service books), then the 9-book series (the Endless American Dream), then the 2-book group (the next generation) then the final 3-book group (the New Human series). I want them to be cohesive but different.

That's going to take some time -- and now I have the time to do it! Yay, me!