



# As the Author Learns

Bits & bites about publishing & writing from

*J L Wilson*

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## What's Happening?

I spent November's NANOWRIMO (National Novel Writing Month) converting all my notes from my big series into a new format. I was maintaining everything on a private website with hyper-links and cross-references. Lots of work to maintain.

It wasn't as much effort as I dreaded it would be. It did take a lot of time, and I spent a chunk of that time just deciding what kind of structure I wanted to have. What would be my main headings, my sub-headings, my keywords? How would I search through all this information (because depending on what I search for, I may want to format things a certain way).

I got most of the transferring done in mid-November and I've been actually using the system now for a month, tweaking it and changing a few things here and there. I'm not ready to retire the website I use for this; I'm still paranoid about perhaps missing some information. I plan to spend a few days before the end of the year double-checking everything. But still, that was a huge chunk of work done, and I'm pleased with the results.

I also wrote the middle of the "interim generational" trilogy that ties the two parts of the big series together. And yes, now that I wrote that one, I decided I needed to rewrite the other books in that trilogy. I edited the first book and am working on the third one.

What's next? Well, I need to figure out covers. My normal cover artist is no longer doing freelance work, but I have a friend who does covers and I think I'll work with her. I have a few ideas, but I need to nail them down.

I worked out a general timeline for next year. I'll spend January doing promo for *Mirrored*, which releases early in the month. I don't have a link yet for the pre-release. I'll have that in my next newsletter.

I also hope to write a new mystery in January-March while working on the covers for the big series. I'll be submitting a new mystery to my publisher this month (still not sure which book I'll submit. I need to decide on that). So I may have some edits or other business work to do early next year for that new book submission.

In March to July I want to do final reviews of all the books in the series and get them ready for publishing. My new timeline is to start publishing this series starting in August of next year, with one book a month for 18 months.

After that, or during the publishing process, I'd like to experiment with writing some novellas that fill in a few of the details for the series. I've never done that before, and I expect it might be a matter of trial and error, but I think I'll give it a shot. And at the end of next year, I want to do promo for the series and write another mystery.

Fingers don't fail me now.

## In Other News

I had a good trip visiting with my writing buddies and brainstorming books. We had to change our usual casino plans because of pandemic-related worries, but we still all managed to get together and hash out some book ideas. We're also meeting via Zoom once a month, just to touch base and see how folks are doing. I need that little boost now and again to keep me on the writing treadmill.

I self-published my older books using a new distribution platform. For anyone interested in seeing my backlist, I have everything listed at <https://bit.ly/JLWbooks>. It's taken me awhile to get things organized, but I think I have everything listed there now.

When I look back on my whole publishing life, it's hard to believe that *Mirrored* will be Book #34 available for purchase. A few of those books have seen multiple lives with re-publishing and new covers. Some of them are digital only (I didn't do print copies of some of my re-releases because I usually sell so few print copies anyway). I have considered making some of these books into audio books but haven't really explored that avenue very much.

I have 4 mysteries done and will be submitting those to my publisher. And I have 18 books done in my big series and will be self-publishing those next year. My first books were published in 2007 and I had 5 books out that year.

Has it really been 14 years since I first held a copy of one of my books? Since I saw one of my books in digital format on an e-book reader?

How publishing has changed in that time! It used to be so time-consuming to format and upload an e-book. Now I can do it with a click of a button and be assured that it will be correct and readable. I wonder what the next 14 years will bring?



## What's Next?

Well, you know what's next – prepping for promotion, writing a book or two, reviewing some books, and getting covers ready for my series. Lots to do in 2022. It's a good thing I'm fully retired now because I have time for it all. I hope everyone out there has a healthy, quiet, and enjoyable holiday season. I'll be back in February with an update as I start Year 15 in publishing. See you then!