



As the Author Learns

Bits & bites about publishing & writing from

J L Wilson

Author of mysteries, time travel, romances, & other
books that defy categorizing

What's Happening?

Before I get into news, here's my yearly "opt out" info:

I send my newsletter to people who requested it, either by giving me their email address or by signing up via Yahoo in my Yahoo group. Well, Yahoo has discontinued the Groups functionality, so now if you were a member of that group, you'll get a notice that my newsletter is posted on my web site. You won't get a copy of the newsletter. If my personal email is hacked, I'll do what I can to prevent anyone getting your email address. My website is part of my blog on Google and as such it uses Google's privacy policies. If you don't want to hear from me, send me an email and I'll remove your name either from my email list or my group.

I started the new year off on a dismal note when my main computer died on me. I left it for an hour or two and came back and I could no longer log in. Sigh.

I hauled it over to the Geek Squad and the kids there were perplexed. "Never seen anything like it" they said. Oh, joy. In the end, they had to reformat the hard drive and reinstall Windows. Luckily I have a backup laptop that I could use during the week they worked on my computer so I didn't have to rely on my phone or tablet completely.

Because I am more-than-paranoid about losing work, I had backups but the problem was, I had *too many* backups. I had to poke through files to make sure I was working with the right versions. Then I had to reinstall specific software, customize things the way I like it, and generally get the machine back in working order.

It took several hours but I am up and running again. I know I can't use this current machine when Microsoft forces me to go to Windows 11 because the hardware is too old. I figure by then I'll buy a new one.

In exciting news for independent authors (like me), Smashwords is merging with Draft2Digital. These are two distributors that authors can use to upload and sell their books. I was in the process of removing the remainder of my self-published books from Smashwords and moving them to D2D, so this means I don't need to do that now. The merger will begin in March and probably take a few months to complete. It makes my life much easier!

In Other News

I decided to revisit my backlist of books on my Facebook author page. Every week I'm going to have a post that talks about one of the "old" books. I think I have almost enough for the entire year, with a few promo ops for books that will be published. Check out my Throwback Thursdays at <https://www.facebook.com/jayeAtplay>.

I am about half-way done with writing my next mystery. This is my Little Red Riding Hood book in which the heroine is in danger from someone with a grudge about organ donations. Yep, you read that right. In LRRH, the wolf consumes both the grandmother and LRRH and the woodsman comes along and rips open the wolf to save them. (Gross, I know).

I started thinking about how I could refactor that into a plot and my gambling buddies helped me come up with the idea of organ donations. The book is progressing nicely and I hope to wrap it up by the end of this month.

Next I want to decide on a book to submit to my publisher. Should I have Jane Eyre, Rapunzel, Cinderella, or Little Briar Rose release next? Decisions, decisions.

My latest book came out in early January (Snow White and the Seven Jocks). All my books are listed at <https://bit.ly/JLWbooks>. I hope to be adding a bunch of books there in the upcoming months. Yep, I plan to release my big series this year.

What's Next?

I'm starting Year 15 in publishing and this is the year I want to release my big series. I'm working on cover art for the whole series:

- 3 books in the Celestial Service series
- 9 books in The Sorting (formerly The Endless American Dream)
- 3 books in The Memories (the later generations)
- 3 books in the New Human series (set on another planet)

My goal is to release one a month starting in August. I'm not 100% sure I can make that deadline because it depends on how the cover art development goes, how things look when I do my read-through later this spring, and so on. But that's my goal (it's good to have goals, right?)



I've been working on this series *forever* and I never actually thought about the day I might publish it. That day always seemed so far in the future. But I'm hoping this year is the year I launch it.

But first I need to finish the book I'm working on. I need to decide on a new book to submit to my editor. I need to figure out what I want on 18 covers for 4 different-yet-related series of books. Then I can sit back, review everything I've worked on, upload it and see if I like it and then – maybe – set a publishing date.

We'll see what happens!