



# As the Author Learns

Bits & bites about publishing & writing from

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books that defy categorizing

## What's Happening?

I have to get ready for a book release *this* year, because *Aired* (my Jane Eyre book) will come out on December 6!

I didn't think it would be releasing until January, but it's available for pre-order now at Amazon:

<https://books2read.com/b/47gRkL>.

This will be my 38<sup>th</sup> book to be in print since I started on this journey back in 2007.

And I am still writing every day and am almost done with my *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* story. This one was a challenge, I have to say.

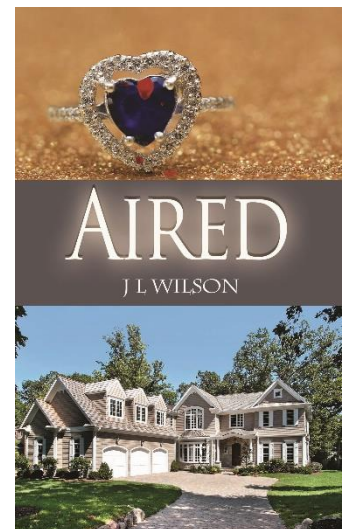
First of all, the original story is a novella, so there's not a lot to work with. Secondly, the key points of the story are told in letters! Yes, letters reveal all in the final scene of the story.

Another problem was that the novella has all male characters and very little action. Most of it is told as impressions by the main character. This means that I had to create some scenes and some plot points that aren't in the original one.

I decided to make this a story about addiction and its effects on the people around the addicts. Jekyll was an addict of sorts because the drug he used was essential not to turn him into Hyde, but to turn him back into Jekyll. The crux of the story is when Jekyll realizes that he can no longer control the change and Hyde takes over.

I know people who have been controlled by the addictions of people around them and how that has affected their lives. So I decided to make Jekyll and Hyde two different people, one who is the addict and one who has to pick up the pieces of the addiction.

I also wanted to have a 'broken' heroine in a sense, someone who has difficulties with trust and caring for other people (the same way an addict might have difficulty, but for different reasons). Her epiphany will occur when she learns to trust and to let go of her past.



This meant that I had to create a really bad backstory for my poor heroine, and I think I've done a good job of that. I also decided to toss in some Victoriana into the story because that's when the original novella is set. So I came up with a Steampunk writer's conference, and a British hero and – well, you'll have to read it to find out!

I hope to wrap up this story by the end of October. Then I'll figure out what book to submit to my editor for next year. I am leaning toward my *Sleeping Beauty* book.

Then I'll move on to focusing on the covers for my big series and I'll do one more read-through and get those books prepped for release next year.

After that, I'll tackle the Dracula book. I'm calling it *Souled* (because Dracula was a corrupter of souls) and I think a real estate agent will figure quite prominently in the story. Plot to be decided, but I have ideas...

## In Other News

For the first time since 2019, we had our casino outing! Whee!

In 2020 we met at a friend's house for our get-together and in 2021 we met at a hotel (not the casino hotel) for brainstorming. But it just wasn't the same as our outing at the casino. So this year we decided: Just Do It.

The pandemic put a dent in our brainstorming and gambling in previous years, but we made up for it this year. One of our alumni joined us (someone who had moved away but was back in the neighborhood for a visit), so it was a great time!



I now have good ideas for my Dracula book, I have some ideas for promotion and publishing, and I managed to double my gambling money.

A win-win all around!

## What's Next?

Formatting and prepping fifteen books for release in the coming year will keep me busy. I'm sure I'll find something to edit, something to change, something to fix. I hope to return to some of the follow-up stories that I played with earlier in the year.

I also plan to pick up my charity sewing projects again once the weather turns cold (I don't like to work on crochet projects when it's hot!) I make lap robes and shawls for hospice patients, and I'm excited to get started with that again. I listen to books from the library as I do it, so the time goes fast. ☺

The holidays will be just around the corner, so that will keep me a bit busy, plus I want to get at least one more book written this year (maybe the Dracula book). And there may be another road trip in my future before the snow flies – we'll see!