



# As the Author Learns

Bits & bites about publishing & writing from

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## 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 once active Yahoo group. All my newsletters are posted to my website if you ever want to go back and look at them.*

*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 from my email list.*

Now, updates: Last year at this time I was starting from scratch because my computer died. Believe it or not, I am still finding files that I'm missing even now, a year later. Luckily I have backups (and backups of my backups), so I'm able to find what I need, but it's still startling sometimes to discover something's missing. Fingers crossed I don't have to go through that again in the near future. Although I suppose I will need to consider a new computer sometime this year. Ah, technology.

I kicked off the new year by reviewing the 15 books in my big series. I've been toying with releasing it this year but I think I won't. Why? I realized that if I release this series, I will be saying goodbye to those characters and they've been with me a long time. Once a book releases, the characters are no longer in my control (although many authors would contend that characters, not the authors, are always in control).



Anyway, there are still tweaks I want to make to their story and reviewing them has made me realize that I want to add a bit more background and motivation to what's going on. Also, these books are ones I return to when I need a break from writing mysteries. It's like returning to old friends to come back and work on them.

So I decided that I'll get the covers designed and format the books but I won't plan to release the books until I feel good and ready. I still have the final 3 books in the series to review, and that may necessitate me going back and tweaking yet more things. We'll see!

## In Other News

I'm beginning year 16 in publishing – amazing, isn't it? I'm averaging about two books per year (all books are listed at <https://bit.ly/JLWbooks>.) I'll be adding *Heir* to that list this year.

Yep, my Rapunzel book will be coming out sometime this year. And I have a preliminary cover for it already (that was fast!) I think it will be altered slightly to include a bloody fingerprint on the upper half (consistent with some of my other covers).

This is one of the few books I didn't set exclusively in the Midwest and I can't remember exactly why I chose to set it elsewhere. I tend to use places that I can easily identify and map out, but for this one I made up an entire town and plopped my characters right into it.

I did a lot of psychological research for this book because the main character was kept secluded from interacting with other people for the first sixteen years of her life. I needed to know what effect that would have on her world view.

It's a bit creepy to realize that there's an entire body of research devoted to this topic because it's happened and many psychologists have detailed reports of what goes on in the person's personality development or lack thereof. I had to make sure my heroine emerged from this somewhat normal and in order to do that, I gave her some great supporting characters.

(This explains why it's essential for authors to continually delete browsing history on their computers lest they be discovered to be researching such topics).

I did start my story in Iowa and my heroine does own a store much like one I've visited in the Amana Colonies here. So there's still that Midwest touch. I have a couple of very interesting characters in this one, especially a stepsister who shows up late in the show and who may get her own book at some time in the future or who may appear in other books.

## What's Next?

I need to mess around with some Publishing Business. I have an author page on Amazon ([https://www.amazon.com/author/j\\_l\\_wilson](https://www.amazon.com/author/j_l_wilson)), created by Amazon. I can edit it, but ... I haven't done much with it. So I'll look at that. I also want to make sure I have up-to-date print editions for my self-published books.

Then I may fool around with audio for some of my books. That can be costly but I have an offer from a distributor to be a beta tester for one of their audio conversion programs. And of course there's writing. I'll tackle *The Scarlet Letter* next, work on some novellas, and think about how to handle my series. There's always something new-to-do in my stack!

