



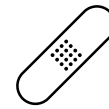
As the Author Learns

Bits & bites about publishing & writing from

J L Wilson

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

What's Happening?



As I've been saying a lot lately: Hip Hip Hooray! I have a new hip!

I had my surgery early in July. We went to the hospital at 5 in the morning and were home by 5 in the afternoon. I've had very little pain and am almost 100% mobile now. I had a follow-up visit at one month with my surgeon and he wants me to take it easy for another three weeks, so I figure in September I'll be back to normal.

This was a relatively easy procedure. The hospital is about a 20-minute drive away, I was taken in on time for the procedure, there were no complications, and I was soon moving around fine and needing only a cane to help balance me out. I'm now cane-free, but I do still limp a bit when I get tired, so...I'm still recovering.

I spent a lot of time sitting around (but getting up every 15 minutes to walk around), so I used the time to get caught up on some reading. I read a few series and I have to admit it was so nice to just read one book after another in a series without waiting for the next one to come out. I have a great appreciation for those authors who manage to pull off a good series.

And I've found a few authors that I will probably never read again because I was so disappointed in their writing. One author (who will remain nameless but it's someone I met at a conference, she's really nice, but...) uses a lot of exclamation marks. I mean! A lot of them! And her characters are all very one-dimensional, she *tells* and doesn't *show*, and, well, there's a lot of what I think of as Beginner Mistakes. I'm glad I met her and I know she's a Big Name in Writing, but I will never read another book of hers again.

I'm so grateful for the local library so I can check out books and for the library app on my tablet so I can download the Kindle versions if I want. It sure makes it easy to get caught up on that list of "Books to Read" that I've been accumulating for so long.

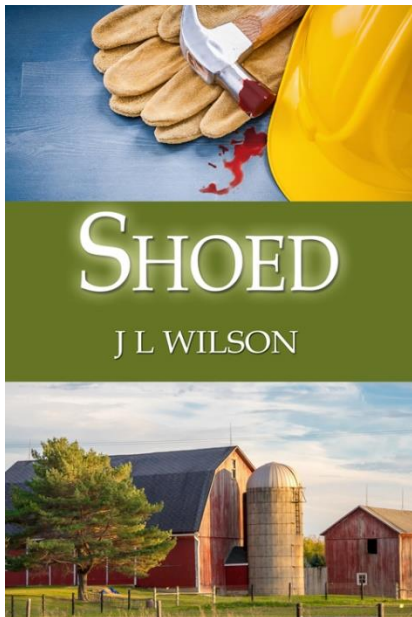
I also used my downtime to finish *Beans*, my Jack in the Beanstalk story. As always, my characters surprised me with some behavior I did not expect, but all in all I think it came out okay. I've set it aside for now and will review it later this year. This was a tough one to finish because I was in pre-surgical mode, but I got it done (I hope! Time will tell...)

I'm also elbow-deep in reviews of my big series, doing another read-through. I'm going through and verifying that I have the details of the story stored in my online system so I can delete the old system I was using.

On my list of Things to Do is to get a couple of query letters out to agents and explore getting covers made for the series (on the assumption I won't be able to sell it to a mainstream publisher). I confess I'm not in a big hurry to do this, but I work better with a deadline, so ... here are the deadlines I'm setting for myself for the rest of this year:

- Finish final review of all books in the Big Series (15 books total)
- Get some query letters out to agents
- Look into crafting covers for the books Just In case
- Write one more book (?). Not sure on this one, but I might be able to do it for NaNo.

In Other News



My Cinderella book, *Shoed*, is ready for publication and will release on October 16. It's available for pre-order right here: <https://www.amazon.com/Shoed-Remembered-Classics-Romance-Book-ebook/dp/B0DCC6J5NR/>.

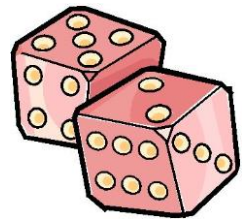
Now that I have a release date, I need to decide which book to submit next. I'm leaning toward my Jekyll/Hyde book but I think it needs some work. I think my MacBeth book is solid and so is my Red Riding Hood book, so I may submit one of those. My Frankenstein book needs a bit of editing to include new details about AI.

Decisions, decisions.

I'm also finding that I have some characters who are clamoring for attention. I've been playing around with the back story for two protagonists and I think I'm seeing where they'll fit in an Ugly Duckling kind of story. As I edit other books or read other authors' books, I'm developing some ideas for a plot where these two people will fit.

What's Next?

Fall is nearing so that means brainstorming time! This is great timing because I have these characters, now I need to figure out the plot. I'll be meeting my usual group in late September for three days of plotting and general mayhem. It will be my first trip since my surgery, so fingers crossed that it goes smoothly. I need to figure who to kill next...



I'll also be taking a couple of small road trips in September and October. I wasn't able to do much traveling in the spring and summer, so I'm going to make up for it in the fall. Highway, here I come!