



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?

I had a bit of a medical setback that took up a lot of energy in late April and May and still is a pain. Quite literally.

Six years ago, I had my right hip replaced and now it's time for the left hip to be done. I had a lot of pain starting in March and in April, it got very bad. I was at the point where I could barely walk and I knew something had to be done. I finally got an appointment with an Ortho surgeon and yep, the old joint is bone-on-bone and needs to be replaced.

But (there's always a *but*, isn't there?) I can't get in for surgery until early July (mark your calendars: July 10). I tried the two other surgical options in my area, and they were scheduling as far out as August.



At first I had a lot of pain that just wasn't being managed by OTC meds. Then the doctor prescribed an NSAID pain reliever and that has been a life saver.

I'm not as active as I was before this diagnosis, but I am able to get around in a limited way and I keep my cane handy when I leave the house. I even got a temporary handicapped permit (win!) for my car. I can walk for short periods of time and I have very little pain when I sit, so I'm doing a lot of what I always do, which is writing.

I'm also reading several authors I've never read before, working my way through a couple of series. I've been able to get almost everything I want to read from the local library, either as an eBook or to check out a physical book. So that's another win with me being somewhat disabled and forced to sit around.

I'm a month away from the surgery and I expect everything to go smoothly. I had no problems after the first hip replacement and I anticipate this one will be just as easy. Once that's out of the way, I can get on with summer!

I did manage to teach my last class this spring, this one entitled *Publish, Don't Perish*. I talked about the publishing industry, the ins and outs of finding a publisher, how to find an agent, how to self-publish and what that entails. It was an overview, really, of all I've learned since I've been in the business.

I do stay up on latest trends through various message forums, so I was able to put together a good talk for my audience. I had a bit of pain that day, but I was able to handle it all and I think my audience came away with an appreciation for the industry and those of us out there who are writing.

In Other News

In non-writing news, I've become involved with the Homeowner's Association in our new community. I don't have a lot of duties, but I am going to draft a rewrite of our covenants, which are in annoying legalese language and barely understandable. That shouldn't take me long but once the other homeowners start to review it, we might have some rewrites. That's on the back burner for now, though, because I have other priorities.

I finished the edits for my Cinderella book, *Shoed*. That involved two more rounds of edits between the copy editor and the proofreader. I have a release date in October. I'll have more details about that as we get nearer the date.

I am also about three chapters-to-the-end of *Beans*, which is my Jack and the Beanstalk book. For this book I decided to investigate some topics that have begun to interest me, among them undercover recording devices, corporate espionage, and GMO seed development. Yes, I do have an active imagination (please delete my browsing history when I die because I'm sure it might incriminate me).

I decided that my Jack would be a scientist who works for a company that creates designer seeds. He decides to do a little corporate espionage but gets into trouble and fakes his own death. The story begins years later when our heroine, Jax, finds out all the shenanigans her supposedly late husband Jack got up to.

My goal is to finish this before my surgery and then spend the rest of the year on other publishing tasks: promotions, investigating audiobooks for some of my titles, querying agents for my series, and working on cover designs for some books.

What's Next?

After I finish my Jack book I want to review a couple of my finished manuscripts and decide which I will submit next. I am leaning toward my Dracula book (*Souled*) or maybe Red Riding Hood (*Reddy*). Not sure which one. I also need to revisit my Frankenstein book and beef up some of the AI information there. It seems like AI technology is changing daily and I want to stay current with that.

I also want to review all my notes that I've accumulated for my big series. I have a Wiki that I created to track the facts but I've also transferred most of that information to OneNote, which is a freebie program from Microsoft. If possible I'd like to discontinue that Wiki. However, before I do that, I need to make sure **all** information is transferred, because once discontinued, it'll be tough to access.

But first: my Hip Hip Hooray surgery – I'm looking forward to it!

