

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?

A new book is coming! You can pre-order it now at your favorite retailer by visiting this link, which lists all the spots where it's available: <https://books2read.com/b/3JYZve>. Check back often as the links are updated closer to release date on June 30.

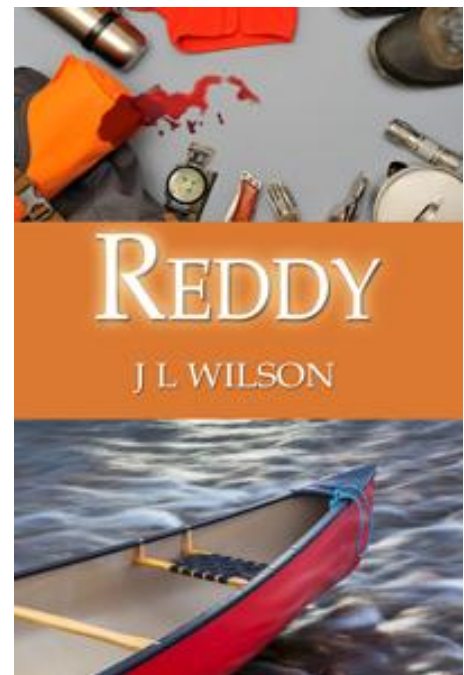
Even after all this time, it never gets old to have a new book meet the world. This book is my homage to one of my favorite spots, the Boundary Waters in Minnesota. That area truly is a world unto itself and the people who live there are just as unique.

Wilderness camping is a big part of the lives there because many people enjoy it and it's an integral part of the economy of the area. The main female character in this book runs a wilderness outfitting shop. I've visited several such stores on visits to the Boundary Waters area and I actually worked at a remote resort one summer when I was in college.

I wanted my heroine to be independent but also have a good sense of her own strengths and weaknesses. She's comfortable in such an unusual environment but she's also aware of the rest of the world and how her world compares to 'civilization.'

The roads in the Boundary Waters wind through heavy forests with a lake popping up around every curve. I've seen moose while driving there and once I glimpsed a bear. Mink and otters swim near the cabin where we often stayed for vacation.

That's why I set the precipitating event, a car accident, on one such road. There are several spots there where the hills and curves make it hard to see what's coming. Also this part of the world is a logging area, so there are always giant trucks around. A perfect spot for an accident.



As always, when I start a book featuring a fairy tale, I go back and read *The Real Thing*. Little Red Riding Hood is, like so many fairy tales, a grisly story. I know all of those tales were supposed to instill virtue and morality in children, but really, this one is crazy. Grandma gets eaten and then the woodsman comes along, takes an ax to the wolf and pulls her out.

Gross. Sorry, but, gross.

However, it gave me an idea. Yep, that's how my brain works. What if someone died and their organs were used for transplanting (an admirable thing, right?) But what if someone else objected to that practice?

Hmm. This led me to a lot of research about organ donations, organ transplants, how such things are tracked, who gets on what list, and how the lists are managed. Then I got into the weeds about who, from a law enforcement perspective, can investigate if something might not be on the up-and-up regarding transplants.

I played with some ideas and brainstormed them with my friends at one of our writing retreats. Lo and behold, I somehow came up with *Reddy*, the story of Rebecka Evelyn Danforth, her grandmother, and the killer who stalks them. And now my story will be in the world.

In Other News

I finished all my workshops at the local library and was invited to come back in the fall for some more in-depth work on plotting and pacing. That means I'll be doing three more Saturdays to work with the folks there. I am also meeting with another librarian in town to set up similar workshops in winter. I enjoy talking about writing and publishing, and as long as there is interest, I'll keep doing it.

While I was leading the workshops I also wrote a new book, *Matched*, which is loosely based on Jane Austen's *Emma*. My heroine isn't really a matchmaker but I use some of the characters from the book. This is one of the few books I've written where the hero and heroine know each other before the story opens, so I was able to give them different ways of interacting than I've been able to do in previous books.

I also prepped another manuscript to submit. I had to write a synopsis and edit the entire manuscript again with a very critical eye. I plan to submit that to my editor later this week.

What's Next?

I decided to try a promo idea. I'm going to set some of my books 'free' for a month and advertise it, then I'll see if it affects sales for my backlist. I have no idea if it will, but I figure I have enough books so I'll try this every month.

And of course, it's summer so it's time to relax. I'm getting caught up on a lot of reading I never had time for. It's so nice to go out on the porch, put up my feet, and let another author entertain me. At least for now, until I get an idea for a new mystery...

