



As The Author Learns

Bits and Tidbits about the Publishing Process

from J L Wilson

a 'still-learning-about-it' author

What's Happening?

A few years ago, I entered a bunch of contests as I was trying to hone my writing skills and I well remembered the angst of waiting for those contest results. When I signed my publishing contracts, I thought I was done with the contest circuit. Silly me -- there are contests for published authors! And silly me, I decided to enter some. I tried to select contests where the entry is judged by non-authors and/or where contests are sponsored by organizations to which I belong.



Lo and behold – I'm a finalist in the Eppie contest! This is a contest sponsored by EPIC: the Electronically Published Internet Connection, an organization for e-publishing and e-published authors. Not only am I a finalist, I'm a double finalist.



Candy, Corpses and Classified Ads is a finalist in the mystery category and *If Not For You* is a finalist in a separate mystery category (the one for 'spicy' or 'sexy' books). The winner will be announced in March at EPICon, the annual convention (held this year in Las Vegas). I've never attended EPICon, but I've wanted to go to one since I think e-books, e-publishing, etc., are the wave of the future. And I've got incentive to go this year. So I'm penciling it in on my calendar as a "Maybe" for early March.

In Other News

Books, books, more books are out. *Brilliant Disguise* is in print as is *Autographs, Abductions and A-List Authors*. I just got my authors copies for both books (whoopie!) And *Endurance* released on Thanksgiving Day in download and I promptly put a copy on my Kindle.

That reminds me: if you're a Kindle user, the simplest way to transfer my Cerridwen books is to buy the book at the Cerridwen web site and download it and save it as a Mobi format. Then attach your Kindle to your PC and copy the .prc file to your Kindle documents directory. Voila: formatted book! I didn't know it was so easy and thought I'd share in case there are Kindle users out there.

My Cerridwen book, *Your Saving Grace*, is on sale now at the publisher (they're changing cover designs, so the old copies are drastically reduced). Check it out: <http://tinyurl.com/6x8fac>.



In another bit of news, my books are now for sale in my home town. I'm so excited – a local gift shop/flower store (Nature's Corner) is stocking my books for sale in town. My home town is miles from the nearest bookstore and it's tough for some folks to get out of town to order then pick up books. And believe it or not, some people don't like to buy things online! So having the books available in town will be great. Thanks to Cindy, owner of Nature's Corner, for making this happen.

In the Spotlight



Here's an offering from Jenyfer Matthews, another Cerridwen author I've 'met' online. Jen lives in Egypt right now (see her nifty travel pictures at www.jenyfermatthews.com) and she has a couple of books out with CP. Here's the blurb for *All the Way Home*, available in download at <http://tinyurl.com/6eab2c>. Another book of hers, *Here to Stay*, will be in print next year (I'll showcase it then).

Maggie Dean and Sam Callahan grew up in the same town, knew each other in school, admired each other from afar, but never dated. She was just a little too straight and narrow for this bad boy. Now they're all grown up and back in their hometown, she to deal with a family crisis, he to prove that he's changed his ways.

After enduring her parents' loveless marriage and coming home to help her sister pick up the pieces of her broken one, Maggie isn't interested in relationships. Sam Callahan is not only still gorgeous, but he's still available. Neither Maggie nor Sam can deny their attraction but they're still at odds. Can Sam be the one to convince Maggie marriage can work?

What's Next?

I finished the two books in my "New Human" paranormal series and sent them off to my editor for consideration. That was a big project done and I think they turned out okay. I'm waiting to see if they'll be accepted, rejected, or 'okay with a few edits'. Fingers crossed! I have one other task awaiting me and that's Round 2 of edits for *Temperance*, my next History Patrol book. I've set it aside for the moment because I'd like to be creative a bit and not have to slog my way through editorial comments. So I'm postponing that task until the end of the month.



I've started the Oz book! I've been thinking about this book since last spring and I'm finally sitting down to write it. I'm going back through my notes, checking my research, and generally letting my head get into these characters. I've got two chapters written and so far, so good. I'm having a lot of fun with this one.

I'll be briefly out of town for the holidays then in January I'll turn my attention to an upcoming conference – on a cruise ship! I'll tell you more about it then.

This is the end of my second full year as a published author. I continue to learn, have fun, and it seems like I still have a lot of stories to write. I hope you'll stick with me as I continue this publishing journey -- and I hope everyone has a great holiday and a Happy New Year. Eat as though there are no calories, have fun, and drive carefully. See you in 2009!