



As The Author Learns

Bits and Tidbits about the Publishing Process

from J L Wilson

a 'still-learning-about-it' author

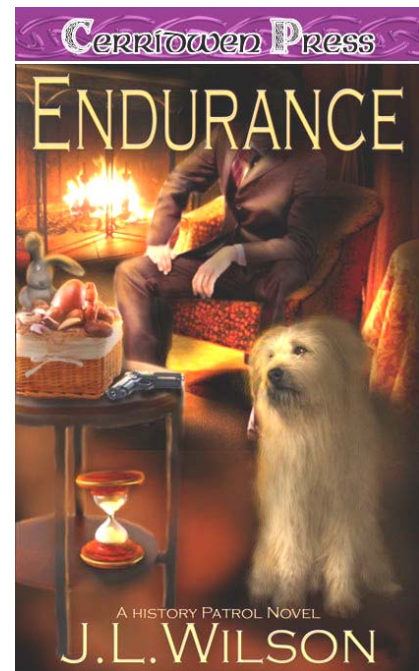
What's Happening?

Oh, most excellent news! I'm a finalist again in the Epic Contest for electronically published authors. I've been a finalist every year I've entered and I won last year with *If Not For You* (which just released in print a month or two ago).

I'm especially pleased about this because I'm a finalist with *Endurance*, my History Patrol novel. This was a very challenging book to write. It's a first-person male point of view novel, it's a very complex plot, and it features two of my favorite characters: a telepathic dog named Cerberus and a hero named Nico Haidess (based on the mythology of Hades, God of the Underworld).

That's Cerberus on the cover of the book. He's eyeing a basket of Easter candy (which he eats in the book and which has disastrous consequences for his digestive system!) The man with him is Nico, the assassin *and* the victim in the book. Nico was stranded in time in the 21st century when he was injected with an immortality virus.

I'm so pleased this book got some attention from the judges. I think it's one of the best books I've ever written – full of interesting characters and an intriguing ending. So keep your fingers crossed for me in March when I go to the conference in New Orleans!



Speaking of conferences, I'm starting to finalize my conference schedule for next year. I think it will be a relatively quiet year. I'm going to the EpicCon conference in March then I'm going to Malice Domestic, a mystery conference, at the end of April. I've never been to Malice but have heard good things about it and think I'd like to give it a try. It's a national conference for fans of the mystery genre (not thrillers or crime books, but mysteries). Since I have several mystery books out, it sounds like it might be a good place for me. That might be it for conferences next year. Believe it or not, I'm already booking conferences for 2011 and have three scheduled for that year.

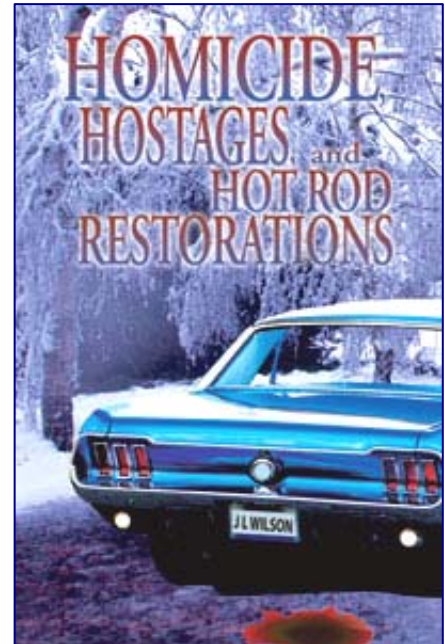
Other than that, I'm busy working on my "Dream" books, the ten-book series about an alternate America. The first five books take place in current day and I'm deep into writing

Book 1 while also plotting the other four books. It's a multi-generation saga and I've started drafting plots and characters for the other five books which will take place in the future. I am having a BLAST working on this series. The characters are very 'present' in my head and the words are just flying off my fingers. Yay!

I take the occasional break from writing to edit a three-book series I want to submit early next year to my new editor at Wild Rose. It's the "Deadly Landscaping" trilogy and I'm almost done editing it. Then it will go to my beta readers then off to the editor, hopefully for publication in 2012.

I'm also plotting and writing my Ghost Story, the second book in the Oz trilogy. I've got the third book drafted but must edit it to incorporate some plot points from Oz. That will wait until next year, though. I really want to focus on my Big Books for now.

Next year kicks off my Gypsy series, so-called because the heroines in two of the books come from a large Rom family. The first book (releasing January 8) is *Homicide, Hostages, and Hot Rod Restorations*, with the other two books in the series (*PhDs, Pornography, and Premeditated Murder* and *Ex-Wives, Extortion, and Erotic First Editions*) releasing later in the year. These are three of my favorites for various reasons: Hot Rods has one of my favorite secondary characters (Marcus) who becomes a main character in *PhDs* (which features my favorite heroine, Jane). And *Ex-Wives* features scenes from Pittsburgh, where I used to live as well as a unique mystery. Check my web site for release dates and information.



In Other News

I had an great time at the Open House in my hometown in late November. We had a BIG crowd, and we sold and I signed quite a few books. I'm also doing some speaking at a local B&B in my home town. They have a "mystery dinner event" on Saturday nights. I contacted the owner and she thought it might be fun to have a local mystery author talk. So whenever I'm in town, I'm dropping in to chat with people about writing.

What's Next?

More writing, of course! I'm focusing on my Big Books for a few months, but I suspect I'll be taking breaks to work on other projects. I have an idea simmering for another History Patrol novel, an idea for a mystery book that features ALL of my characters in it (oh, that will be a challenge), and another idea for a new mystery series.

Have a great holiday season – I'll be back in 2010 with 5 more books out and more to come. Enjoy!