



# As The Author Learns

*Bits and Tidbits about the Publishing Process*

*from J L Wilson*

*a still-learning-about-it author*

## What's Happening?

It's been pretty quiet here, which is nice because I need a chance to get caught up!

I had a great book signing at the Book Corner in Woodbury on July 1<sup>st</sup>. I suppose by many authors' estimation, it wasn't a huge success. We didn't have many people stop by and I only sold ten books – but heck, that's ten books I wouldn't have sold otherwise, and maybe I introduced some new people to my book, so it was a win-win situation for me. Plus I had a chance to get caught up on gossip with a good friend of mine (hi, Kelly!) and had a fun time with the other authors.

**Twin City people:** please support this book store if you can – it supports small press authors like me, and I'd love to reciprocate the favor. It's in Woodbury, on Radio Drive. Details in my previous newsletter or email me for location.

Speaking of bookstores – when I was in Pittsburgh for the RT Convention I had a VERY brief chat with a bookseller there. She encouraged me to contact her about having my books stocked in the Pittsburgh store. Well, I finally had some time to sort through my “to do” list and contacted her. Chris was very excited to have me send her promo items and I suspect if you **Pittsburgh people** contact her, she'll get my books for you. It's the Joseph-Beth Bookstore, at 2705 E. Carson St. 312-381-3600. I hope you'll support them because they're willing to support me.



In other news ...

I got a release date for the second book in the Fatal Writers conferences series. *Sun, Surf, and Sandy Strangulation* will release on November 7 and be in print on May 8 next year. So mark your calendars for that release – this is the book set in Florida at ClueCon, a conference with the Clue board game as its theme. And I wrapped up the first draft of the third and final book in the series, *Mayhem, Marriage, and Murderous Mystery Manuscripts* (a.k.a. “Murder at Halloween”). I'll be sending it to my critique partner soon (warning! Kathy!) for her review.

I still don't have an editor at Cerridwen Press so I don't know the status of *Endurance*, *Temperance*, and *I Know You're Out There Somewhere*. I have asked for word on when they might release, but nothing. Fingers crossed I'll hear something soon.

I have a release date of August 12 and a cover for my first Resplendence book. We went back and forth a few times, but I'm pleased with the final product (even though the heroine isn't quite what I was looking for). She really saves the day in the book, although the hero does come through in a pinch 😊 It will be out on August 12 in e-format then I believe it will be out in mid-November in print (yikes – two books out in November!) I'll be submitting the second book in this 'series' to my editor soon, then I'll need to work on the third book because my editor is already asking about it. Priorities, priorities.

I'm still waiting on edits from my recent sale to Wild Rose, *Human Touch*. I haven't gotten the first round of edits yet so I'm not sure on a release date for it, either. I have two more books planned for that 'series', so maybe it's a good thing I don't have edits yet.



### Update on Iowa Flooding

Yes, my home town of Vinton was flooded, although not as bad as nearby Cedar Rapids. I've spent a lot of time in Cedar Rapids, and I was so sorry to see what happened to it. I suppose to outsiders it appears a foregone conclusion that parts of the town would flood, but believe me, it truly is amazing it did. This wasn't ignorance or hubris or a lack of foresight on anyone's part – it was just a confluence of terrible weather that came together at one time.

My friends and family were without power for several days and life is slowly finding a new normal – it can never really return to normal because so much was washed away, but people are starting to get back on their feet. Thanks to everyone who included my family in their thoughts and prayers. As a native Iowan, I'm enormously proud of how people in our state have taken a deep breath and dug in to dig themselves out of layers and layers of river silt, tornadoes, and muck. I've always said the Midwest is the backbone of the country and I think it's been proven in the last few weeks.

### What's Next?

This is the first July in a few years I won't be traveling to RWA's National Conference. It feels odd not to be agonizing over my pitch to an editor or what to wear to a meeting. But it also feels great, I have to admit. I'm relaxed and energized and ready to dig in to my writing. I found that if I set a firm goal/deadline for myself, I write much better – I'm more focused and can really get the work done. So, that being said, here are my goals for the rest of the year (you heard it here first):

- (1) write the Oz book, edit the second book in that series, then draft the third
- (2) finish edits to the next two books for Resplendence
- (3) draft the next book after *Human Touch*

I'll update you in December on how I do...

