



As The Author Learns

Bits and Tidbits about the Publishing Process

from J L Wilson

a 'still-learning-about-it' author



What's Happening?

Hooray! I won an Eppie!

What's an "Eppie", you ask? It's an award presented by a national organization that supports electronic publishing. Like any national organization, it has a conference every year and books are nominated in a bunch of categories as 'best book of the year'. The Mystery Writers of America have the Edgar Awards, the Cozy Writers have the Agatha, and so on.

My book, *If Not For You*, won in one of the mystery categories. I'm really pleased about it because that book won the Molly contest (that's a well-known national contest for unpublished authors). It won that contest in 2005 and I sold the book in 2006. And this year – another national award. It's one of my favorite romantic suspense books and the heroine, Layla Whitford, is one of my more original female characters. It's currently only available in download format, but here's a link to an excerpt:

<http://www.jayellwilson.com/Excerpts/Max/excerptlayla.htm>

That will give you an idea of the hero (Max Lerner) and the heroine. The award was given at the annual conference in Las Vegas. I couldn't attend because of other commitments (hello, Wilson family!) but I'm hoping to go next year. The conference will be in New Orleans and I think a spring trip 'down south' in March might be nice.

I'm very happy Max and Layla got the recognition they deserve!

In Other News



New contracts!

I was sweating these, let me tell you. Remember that paranormal series I started? The one that's set on another planet with a race of people who were involved in a clone war decades previously? That's the book (*Human Touch*) I sold to Wild Rose but then it languished. The editor never got back to me with edits, I wasn't sure about its status...

Well, it turns out the editor was having some difficulties with meeting deadlines so I was assigned a new editor. After a LOT of confusion (they didn't have the final edits I sent in, another person had to step in and help get it finished, we almost lost the cover art ...) I got a release date for the book (August). So I submitted the next two books in the series to my new editor last December (*Living Proof* and *Leap of Faith*).

And I waited ... and I waited ... and I waited. She said she'd get back to me in January and when I didn't hear anything by mid-February, I contacted her. Oops! It slipped off her "To Do" list. She quickly read both books and immediately offered me contracts. Hooray! A home for two more books!

Next I had to write the synopses for the books and get those submitted. I hadn't looked at those books in months so I had to go back to my notes, and re-read what I wrote and try to summarize a planetary revolution complete with traitors, spies, and a deadly virus all in two pages for each book. Oh, yeah – and a love story and a hero who is part man, part machine, and a cloned human and ...

That was tough. But worth it, because I signed the contracts last week. I just finished the rest of the "busy work" for the books: submitted the cover art request forms, got my excerpts lined up for the front of the book, wrote the back cover copy; the usual stuff. The next step will be editing then getting a release date. I'm hoping they'll come out next year since I already have a few more books releasing this year.

In Other News

I got the final galley for the second mystery book coming out next year (no release date yet, but probably in May). *Pornography, PhDs, and Premeditated Murder* takes place on a fictional college campus in St. Paul. A college professor moonlights as an erotica writer, and her ex-husband is murdered. She's briefly a suspect and hires a private detective to help her out.

I got the idea for this one when I was at the Minnesota State Fair, attending a concert in the grandstand. We were watching the B-52s, and I thought, "Man, it's really dark next to the stage. I wonder if somebody could get murdered there and not be seen?" And that led me to wonder who would be murdered, and how it was done and before you know it, I had a book!

What's Next?

I've got a couple of trips in April to visit family plus a talk and book signing with my local writing group. I also have a new release in April (*Nowhere To Run*) to start thinking about. I *still* haven't seen the cover for that book, so ... fingers crossed! I also haven't seen the final galley, which means I may have to drop everything and do some serious reading in order to hit my deadlines.



I'm almost done with the Oz book and have a start on a second book in that series. I'll focus on promo in April and May, then in June the next book in the Fatal Writer's Conference series releases (*Mayhem, Marriage, and Murderous Mystery Manuscripts*). I planned that it would be the final book featuring those characters, but I got a great idea for how to murder a literary agent on a cruise ship. I suspect another Bea and Lucas book is in my future.

Also in June is the Wisconsin Romance Writers conference in Green Bay – always a fun time since it's held at a casino (and you know how I love to gamble!). I'm already looking forward to that. Then it's July and a trip to Colorado for a wedding (hooray!) then it's August and a trip to Nashville for a conference and ...

I'll just keep my suitcase out and ready to go, I think!