



As The Author Learns

Bits and Tidbits about the Publishing Process

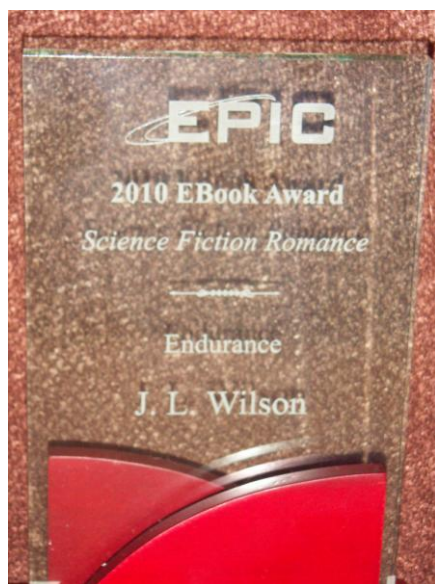
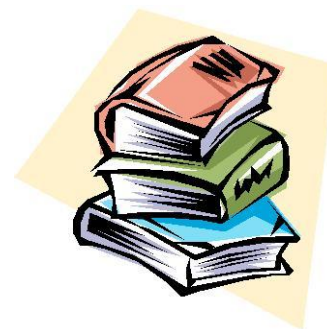
from J L Wilson

author of mysteries, paranormal romances &
books that defy categorizing

What's Happening?

It looks like I'll have a few more books out next year! Yay! I submitted my three "Deadly Landscaping" novels to my editor at Wild Rose, and she has tentatively accepted them. She's read the first one, loved it, and is reading the next two.

I wrote this series last spring and summer and let them sit for a while before I went back and re-read them, tweaking them a bit here and there. They all feature Cassie Whittington, reluctant heiress; her ex-husband, Charlie Whittington; and Sam Barlow, the man who's employed Cassie. Cassie is starting a new career in horticulture after she's laid off from her high-tech job. This gave me a chance to put to use some of my horticultural knowledge and I set the book at the school where I got my horticultural degree. I can't wait to go there and do a book signing in the greenhouse!



As you can tell by the 'banner' on my newsletter this time, I've been doing some travel. I was in New Orleans for the EpiCon conference, a gathering for folks in electronic publishing (digital publishing). I was up for an award there, and WHOO! I won! It was such a fun time – they have a very glamorous award ceremony complete with an M.C. who was very funny. They read out the individual categories and who is nominated for the award. Then they announce the winners with a grand opening of the award envelope, just like the Oscars.

When they got to my category, there was a bit of a mix-up. The right person wasn't paired with the correct book. So there was a delay while I sat there, *agonizing* about whether I won or not!

Needless to say, they announced me as the winner and I didn't trip going up to the stage to collect my award. I managed to utter a few words then I made it back to my table without stumbling – all very good!

A friend from Wisconsin was there and she was also nominated for an award. She won right before I did, so it was a very happy table. We went to the bar afterward for drinks and I felt like I was floating. What a fun time! The picture gives you an idea of the award (it's a wooden base, despite how it looks). That little bit of glitzy yellow next to the award is part of the table decorations. There was a Mardi Gras theme for the party, and we all got party masks plus there was party confetti on the tables, etc.



Of course, New Orleans was fun even without the awards (but oh, that was a nice topper to a good vacation!) We went to the French Quarter, we ate beignets and po'boys, we visited the Voodoo Museum (where I bought a good luck charm that obviously worked!) we had crabcakes galore and we had some very amazing food in little out-of-way places. The weather was marvelous -- temperatures in the 60s and warm sunlight and NO SNOW! Wow, what a change of pace!

I highly recommend a mid-winter break if you can do it - and if you can win an award while you're there, that's even better 😊

[In Other News](#)

We wrapped up our Community Education class here in Minnesota about writing-for-publication. I had a great time teaching it, and the experience has prompted my co-teacher and me to consider another class on "Writing Essentials" -- how to plot a book, craft characters, create distinctive dialogue, and other essentials of getting a book down on paper. I've begun a tentative outline of what might go into that class. I'd rather not teach two classes at a time, so we'll probably offer one during one 'session' then the other during the next session. All in the planning stages!

I'm also considering writing a 'craft' book, a "How To" about what I've learned about writing "In Between" -- Writing in between all the other things that demand your time. I juggle an extremely busy schedule but still manage to write and that's the question I'm asked most often -- "How do you do it?" So I'm contemplating writing a book about it. That's in the Contemplation Stage right now.

[What's Next?](#)

I'm making a few road trips between now and the middle of April, then at the end of April I'm off to Washington D.C./Virginia for the Malice Domestic conference. I'm *really* excited about that conference because I'm on a panel there. It's quite a coup to be asked to be a panel participant, so I hope I make a good showing.

Until then, I'm just waiting for the first signs of spring and I'm writing like crazy!