

## 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?

I'm back from my second conference of the year and I am all energized and ready to write!

I had such a good time at the Malice Domestic conference. It's a big conference for readers of mystery fiction, and they weren't kidding when they said it attracted a LOT of people! It was a big group of readers -- in fact, most of the conference was readers, not writers, which is unusual for the conferences I attend. But this one is a conference designed for readers -- readers who *want* to meet writers and find out about new books. Whee! My kind of place!



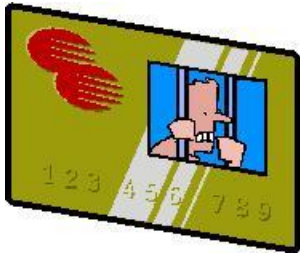
We got to Washington D.C. on Thursday afternoon and did a bit of exploring around the hotel. Then on Friday morning I was involved in "Speed Dating with an Author." Holy Moly! I've never experienced anything like it. Here's how it works: there's a big ballroom with 20 tables. Each table has 6-8 readers sitting there. Two authors are assigned to each table to start with. Each author has 2 minutes to talk about his/her books. Then they switch places and the other author talks. When the 4 minutes are up, the moderator calls out: "Authors! Switch tables!"

Then the authors get up and move to the next table and do it all again with a new table of readers. What this meant was that I had a chance to 'connect' with about 150 readers on a somewhat personal basis. I chatted about my book, then they asked questions, and I handed out promotional items. When I finished, the other author with me did the same and before you knew it, we were moving to the next table.



By the time I got to table 20 (more than an hour later), I was beat and my voice was starting to give out, but I had a great time! Readers were jotting down information, asking me questions, and they all looked at least somewhat interested in what I was writing and where they could find my books (some more interested than others). I've never participated in this kind of event, but I had a blast!

That event took up most of Friday morning. On Friday afternoon we took a break from the conference and hopped on the D.C. Metro (train) and went to the National Museum of Crime and Punishment (“*it’s so much fun, it’s a crime*”). Check them out at their web site: <http://www.crimemuseum.org/>.



And you know something? That slogan is right. I had a chance to drive a police car in a simulated high-speed chase, shoot a gun (simulated, of course), and examine a body in the CSI part of the museum. We spent about two hours playing with all the exhibits and generally having a great time.

On Friday night there was an official meet-and-greet with the readers (whom I had met earlier that day, of course, during Speed Dating) then on Saturday the conference really began. I was a participant on one panel with three other authors then I sat in on talks for the rest of the day. That night we attended an award dinner and on Sunday the conference wrapped up around noon, giving us plenty of time to get to the airport and get home.

All in all -- a *very* good time. In fact, I enjoyed myself so much I am already signed up to go again next year! ☺

## In Other News

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, my latest book is out. This one has a murder at the Minnesota State Fair and it features one of my favorite heroines. It’s already getting very good reviews, which makes me very happy -- the heroine in the book is a bit eccentric, and I wasn’t sure if reviewers would ‘take’ to her or not. But she seems to be a hit, so that’s a real relief. The book is *PhDs, Pornography, and Premeditated Murder* and it can be found right here: <http://tinyurl.com/23ugprp>. If you want to read an excerpt, check out this link from my web site: <http://www.jayellwilson.com/Excerpts/PhDs/excerptPhd.htm>.



What else is happening? I’m deep into edit mode. Remember I mentioned that I had a three-book series that was almost not under contract? Well, I signed those contracts the other day but I have some edits to do. It’s more a matter of me revisiting the books and adding a bit here and there -- and in some spots, adding more than a bit, adding a sub-plot or maybe tweak what’s there.

It’s been a long time since I worked on those books (probably three or four months), so I’m finding it easy to add and subtract as needed. I hope to have all edits done by the end of May and submitted to my editor for her finishing touch.

## What’s Next?

I’ve got a few more trips planned in May then I hope to spend the rest of the summer working on two new mysteries, targeted for publication in 2012. I’ve got the germ of an idea for another mystery I want to explore and brainstorm with friends...but I’d better not get ahead of myself. Edits first!