



# As The Author Learns

*Bits and Tidbits about the Publishing Process*

*from J L Wilson*

*a 'still-learning-about-it' author*

## What's Happening?

An old book ... and a new name ... This one caused me some angst, let me tell you. It's a long story, so settle back and relax. A year or more ago, I submitted two books to Cerridwen Press. One was *I Know You're Out There Somewhere* (my "stalker" book) and one was *Brilliant Disguise* (my "small Iowa town vs. FBI agent" book).

My editor loved both of them but we decided to hold on the contracts for a bit until I had edits on another book out of the way. One thing led to another (yet another long story) and my editor and I parted ways. Now I had two books sitting there with no editor to buy them.

I finally got assigned another editor in July of 2007. She read both books, loved them, but didn't want to offer a contract on both. She felt they were too much alike (you be the judge when they both release). After some thought, I decided to publish *I Know You're Out There Somewhere* with Cerridwen.

In the meantime, this editor had two other books of mine (History Patrol books) and we worked on those, whipping them into shape. Then ... yes, you guessed it ... My editor left the company.

Now I had three orphan books - two books with the History Patrol series, and my romantic suspense (IKYOTS, for short). I twiddled my thumbs for a while, waiting for a new editor, and I finally got one assigned, only to be told that my History Patrol book would have to release first and I couldn't get a release slot for IKYOTS until next year ... sometime.

Well, I'd already sold *Brilliant Disguise* to Resplendence Publishing (and it released this past August). I decided, with a tad bit of tweaking, I could take IKYOTS and have it be the second book in the "Disguise" sequence. I asked for the rights back on the book and was promptly given them. Okay - now I have a book to submit, yet again, to a fourth editor. My RP editor reads it, loves it, and submits it for a contract. One glitch:

The Folks In Charge didn't like the title so I had to scramble and come up with a new title. I had a release date already, I was in the editing schedule, but I needed a title. ARGH! Will this poor book never see the light of day? I sent out a call to my critique friends and my family, and we kicked around ideas. We finally came up with .... Drumroll .... *Nowhere to Run*.

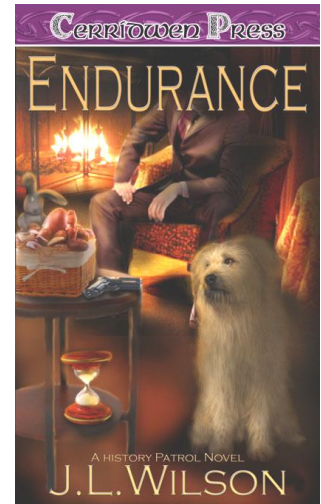


This book will FINALLY be released with a new title in mid-April (no, I'm not thrilled with the title, but I can live with it) and with a new company four years after I wrote it and first submitted it for consideration.

Whew. What a saga!

### *In Other News*

- I got the cover for my November History Patrol book. *Endurance* is about a man trapped in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by an immortality virus. His soul-mate died in 1790, and he's been waiting for her to be reincarnated since then. One of the main characters is a dog and he's featured on the cover, staring at the Easter basket full of candy (that scene figures prominently in the book).
- I got a print date for *Brilliant Disguise*: Mark your calendars for November 13. My "FBI agent tries to fool a small Iowa town and doesn't succeed" book will be in print then!
- I had a great time at the casino with my brainstorming buddies. I even ended up breaking even for the weekend on the slot machines, which I consider a big win. I got some good ideas for the Oz book and for the last book in the Fatal Horticulture series.
- I also had a great time on vacation Up North (the Canadian border area of Minnesota). As always, the resort was beautiful, the scenery was great, and it was fun to Get Away from it all. The resort is featured in a book coming out next year and I'm already tentatively planning a book signing at the resort for the release.
- The first book in the History Patrol series, *Forgiveness*, got 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the PRISM contest (sponsored by a RWA chapter). The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place books were from best-selling print authors. I was very pleased my little e-book did so well.
- My Wild Rose editor has indicated she'll be offering me contracts for three more books, probably to be published in 2009-2010. I've got three more ready to submit, but I'm going to hold off on those. I need to get my paranormal series for Wild Rose written first - I've got the second book done and I'm working now on the third book.
- I had a great book signing in my home town in Iowa. I spoke at the local book group first then went to the library when I signed books for an hour or so. It was fun to see classmates I hadn't seen in a long time and we sold out of all my books pretty quickly. Yea! I donated the books to the library, so it was pure profit for them. I figured I spent a lot of time in that library growing up -- I needed to give something back.



### *What's Next?*

I'm busy trying to wrap up my paranormal series for Wild Rose then I'll move on to write the final book in the Fatal Horticulture series. After that I'll finish edits to the "Disguise" sequence and ...

Oh, just trust me - I'll keep busy!