

As The Author Learns

Bits and Tidbits about the Publishing Process

from J L Wilson

a 'still-learning-about-it' author

What's Happening?

First off, I've got a new book out! *Sun, Surf, and Sandy Strangulation* is out (print: <http://tinyurl.com/aenm9m> and download <http://tinyurl.com/d7t7za>). This is the second book in my Fatal Writers' Conference series and it takes place in Florida at a fictional conference that I designed ("ClueCon").

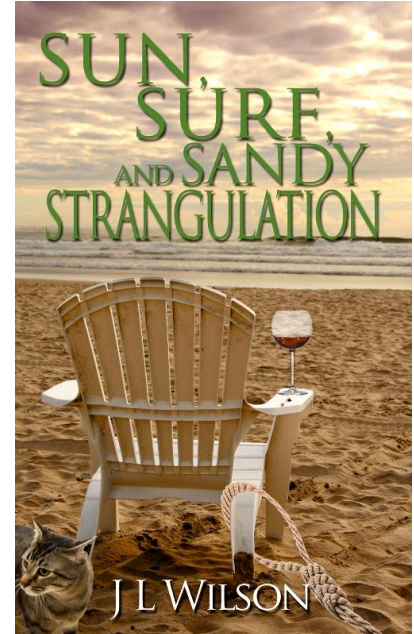
It tells the story of our intrepid heroine, Bea Emerson, who finds a body on the beach. In the course of the conference, several people in the publishing industry wind up dead. Yes, I had fun writing this one ☺

That leads right into one of the other big events of the month – my Florida conference, which was a "Cruise With Your Muse" event on a cruise ship. Since I've never cruised, it was a new experience. My hubby and I flew to Florida on a Wednesday and met up with the other writers there for the cruise. It was great to see my writing friends from around the country and to match names to faces of people I've 'met' online.

On Thursday I boarded the ship with my roomie and my husband took off for his adventures (a trip to the Florida Keys). I was very impressed with how well organized things were – we were shuffled onto the ship and told to go eat lunch (and get out of the way, really). We visited the four buffets and by the time we finished lunch, our stateroom was ready.

What an example of tiny efficiency! It was small but I didn't feel cramped. Of course, we had a room with a view (a porthole), so that helped with the spacious feeling. Our 'conference at sea' started almost immediately, so we took a few minutes to get acclimated then took off for exploration. What a great time – I roamed that ship from stem to stern and had a blast finding all the shortcuts. There was a casino, a shopping mall, a climbing wall (up on the top deck), conference rooms, a library, a business area (where I could use the computers), and thousands of interesting people.

The next day, voila – we were at a small island where people could get off the ship and 'play.' You could go there and snorkel, rent a parasail and go gliding, go fishing ... you name it, they did it. I decided to stay on the boat and lounge, which was a great change of pace from a Minnesota winter. Some friends and I dallied by the pool on the top deck and watched the more adventurous people as they frolicked on the island. What a life!



We cruised back to Florida that night and the next day, I was reunited with my husband and we spent a relaxing day sightseeing in Ft. Lauderdale. We returned to Minnesota on Sunday to a blast of cold reality (temps below freezing and lots of snow). But what a nice change of pace it was, no matter how short!

I was home for ten days then took off for my next conference, this time in Chicago with my critique partner. We shared a hotel with a conference of "Re-enactors", people whose hobby it is to dress up in period costumes (military and otherwise) and get together. We saw World War I and II garb, revolutionary period costumes, women in hoop skirts and Roman soldiers in togas and carrying shields. What a great convergence of conferences – writers (who imagine worlds) and re-enactors (who temporarily live in imaginary worlds).



I was on two panels at the conference, one where I was paired with a publisher. We talked about the e-book market and how it provides such a great opportunity for new authors, as well as an extra venue for marketing. On Saturday I was on a panel with other writers of paranormal fiction and we talked about how we create our 'worlds' and craft our plots.

Along the way I had some excellent food (and LOTS of it) and a chance to talk with some of the other authors there. The great thing about this conference is that most of the authors were with small publishers, just like I am. So I had a chance to exchange ideas with them, as well as compare their publishers with mine (yes, I'm still happy with my publishers).

In Other News

A contest! Would you like to win a Sony E-book reader? Yep, you can be entered into a drawing for one. Just buy a copy of one of my books and your name will be tossed 'in the hat'. Check out the details right here at <http://tinyurl.com/9o7uld>. It's a great opportunity to get your hands on the newest technology.

And speaking of technology, join in on the "Read an Ebook Week" that's coming up. There's more information at <http://www.ebookweek.com>, where you can find out about this technology and how it may affect publishing in the future.

What's Next?

I won't be attending more conferences until June, so I can relax, although I will be traveling in March and April to visit family. For now, I'll do promotion for Surf and get back to writing. I also have a new release in April (*Nowhere To Run*) to start thinking about. I haven't seen the cover for that book, so I hope it'll be okay (I went through four or five cover changes on the first book for the publisher but hopefully this one will be great the first time around).

I'm about half-done with the Oz book and want to wrap that up in February if I can. Then I'll move on to the third book in the Fatal Landscapers series. Then I have two more books I want to write in the Oz series, but I have drafts done. So it will be a matter of editing those books and getting them whipped into shape. I'm hoping by mid-year to be working on my 'post-apocalyptic Alternate America' series.

Easy, right? Well, stay tuned...