



# As The Author Learns

*Bits and Tidbits about the Publishing Process*

*from J L Wilson*

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

## What's Happening?

I've been in Edit Mode for the last month and it's starting to drive me crazy! That's what happens when you write for three publishers. All of my books ganged up on me at once and I've barely had time to come up for air.

First I got in edits for *Nowhere to Run*, which will release in early April. Those edits were relatively simple and I got them done in good time. Then I got edits for *Temperance*, which will release I'm-not-sure-when. Those have taken me a lot longer to do. In fact, I'm picking away at them a little bit at a time, since I don't want them to consume too much of my creative energy.

Then I got edits for *Homicide*, *Hostages*, and *Hot Rod Restorations*, which will release later this year or maybe next year. I actually did two rounds of edits on it and now I'm proofing the final galley.



In the meantime, I also verified the final galley for *Human Touch*, which should release later this year and verified the final galley for *Mayhem*, *Marriage*, and *Murderous Mystery Manuscripts*. "Verifying a galley" means re-reading the book (or at least skimming it) and making sure it's formatted correctly, the page breaks are okay, and other tiny details. It's really the first time I see it the way the reader will see it, and I like to make sure it looks okay. My editor has gone through it, of course, but it doesn't hurt to have another set of eyes look it over, so it's a bit time-consuming.

Consequently I haven't made as much progress on the Oz book as I would like. I've got the first five chapters done, in which the heroine (Dorothy) discovers a body sticking out from under a fallen RV (a body wearing red sneakers, suspiciously like the ruby slippers that were sticking out from under a Kansas farmhouse in the movie). I'm up to chapter 6 in which the motorcycle gang, the Wickededs, are starting to make their presence known in town. Needless to say, this is a fun book to write!

In between edits and writing, I've updated my web site in case you want to see the new banners I've had made. Go to <http://www.jayellwilson.com/SubPages/banners.htm> and check 'em out!

## In Other News

I did my annual "look back and see what I accomplished" review and I was pleased to see what I got done in 2008: four books out, four contracts signed for 2009 and four more

contracts for 2010. I also have several books ready to send out for review, so I'm currently writing for publication in 2012.

I set a few goals for 2009: write three more books for my two mystery series then start to work on my Alternate America series. I've let that languish for a while, but I've got enough of a buffer now with contracts that I feel I can dig in to it and start working on it again. It's a big series and will occupy a lot of my time. I'm hoping by the end of this year, I'll have books ready for submission through 2012, which will give me the breathing room I need to switch gears and work on something completely new.

Let's see if I can do it - it seems like there's always a new mystery to write, always a new paranormal or time travel idea that sidetracks me. But maybe, just maybe, 2009 will be the year I settle down and work on that Big Book.

### In the Spotlight

Here's information about a book from N.D. Hansen-Hill, a writing buddy of mine who lives in New Zealand. We've never met, but have had several lively email exchanges since I get up so early in the morning (which is just right time for her to be sitting down and reading mail). Here's the blurb for her book, *The Hollowing* (available right here: <http://tinyurl.com/a79p2r>).



*Shawn Walsh's problems don't arise from his own troubled past, but from someone else's. In fire and flood, in drownings and bone-rattling quakes, he's an unwilling and horrified participant in worlds, eras, epochs long gone. And his problems have everything to do with family and his rather questionable heritage, a birthright he'd rather know nothing about.*

*He refuses to give up hope. There is still a chance he'll be able to resolve his issues without dying, given the right place... And enough time.*

### What's Next?

I'm gearing up to cruise - my first time on a cruise ship, so I'm curious about what to expect. We leave on the 22<sup>nd</sup> from Ft. Lauderdale and go to the Bahamas for a brief stay then back to Lauderdale. It's a writing-related cruise, sponsored by a writing group and there are several Big Name Authors on board. I'm sure I'll be overlooked in the rush to see the BNA, but I don't mind. That will leave me more time to plot murder on the High Seas!



After that, I'm off to an early February conference in Chicago. *Love Is Murder* has become an annual event for me. It starts on Friday afternoon and ends on Sunday and it's always a lot of fun - it's very casual and relaxed compared to some of the other conferences I've attended.

I'm still not sure if I'll be going to Vegas for the Eppie Conference. I'd love to go, but I'm traveling a lot this year and am not sure if my budget can take it. I'll start researching airfares soon, and will make a decision depending on what I find.

In between all the travel I'm hoping to get some writing done!