



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 tried to find a picture of a pumpkin with snow on him, but couldn't find one. Yep. I live in the northern United States and we've had snow already. I really don't mind snow (which is a good thing since where I live, it snows from November to April). I seem to get more done during the winter months. I suppose it's because there isn't any lure to go outside but more incentive to stay indoors, next to the fireplace...and my keyboard.

I just got back from a week-long vacation at a cabin near the Canadian border. My spouse and I go every year for a week, just to get away. It's very relaxing - no telephones, we use a boat to reach the cabin, and the cabin itself is beautiful...rustic but modern. I used it as a setting in my last mystery (*Mayhem, Marriage and Murderous Mystery Manuscripts*). If you'd like to see some photos from our trip, go to my Facebook photo album, I uploaded a lot of great pictures. Check it out right here: <http://tinyurl.com/yf3rba5>.

And now, back to reality: shock of shocks - I don't have any more books releasing this year! This is unusual for me and, to be honest, it's quite nice. In previous years, I had a new book to promote in just about every month. You see, my main publisher (The Wild Rose Press) used to release books in digital format first then they'd release the print books three or six months later. That meant that I had to do double promotion for each book, a separate promotion at each release.



Now they release the digital and the print books on the same day. That means a lot fewer release dates and while I'm still doing promotion throughout the year for all the books, I don't have the big push on the release day. To give you an idea what last year was like, I had 8 separate release dates (4 books out) in 6 months, staggered throughout the year. This year I had 5 books release with 8 separate release dates in 6 months.

Confusing? Oh, yeah. I have a "Master List" I keep to note when books release in what version. Keep in mind, too, that books don't just show up at the publisher's web site. They're also on Fictionwise, Amazon, Kindle, and other 'stores'. So when they show up at those locations, I like to do a little promotional push as well. This 'other side of publishing' is what *really* keeps me busy.

Other than juggling different promotional activities, I've been nose-to-grindstone, working on the rewrite of *Lie To Me*, a book that will release in 2011. It's a cross-country adventure on a train featuring an FBI agent and a woman who's mistaken for a traitor. I wrote this book a long time ago and it needed a lot of edits. I wanted to get a good start on LtM because I'll be doing edits to *Shadow of Doubt*, a book that has some of the same characters. SoD is scheduled to release next year, which means I'll be starting preliminary edits in the next week or two. That way I can get all my facts straight between the two books.

I'm also working on a ghost story - a woman is haunted by her late husband, who wants her to find out who murdered him. The woman falls in love with the ex-cop who helps her track down the killers, making for an interesting complication. ☺ I've been so focused on *Lie To Me* that I haven't done much on the Ghost Book other than block out the plot and the who-done-it. I hope to get to it as soon as I finish *Lie*, which I hope will be by the end of October.

I just finished the final edits for a book releasing at the end of next year. This is another cross-country adventure, this time in a car. It's the final book in the Gypsy series, which kicks off in January with *Homicide, Hostages, and Hot Rod Restorations*.

In Other News

Did I mention I'm going to be teaching a class? Yep, my critique partner and I are teaching a Community Education class for five weeks on the ins and outs of getting published. If you're in the Twin Cities area, I encourage you to consider joining us. I can promise you a lot of fun and a lot of information. Here's a link to the description of the class (ignore the wonky formatting, I'm not sure what happened): <http://tinyurl.com/m4254e>. There's still time to sign up!



If you want to see some of the topics we'll be covering, you can check out a special page I added to my web site at <http://www.jayellwilson.com/Classes/Research.htm>. I've been gathering information about publishing, writing, and querying then putting links there.

What's Next?

No more major travel planned for this year. I put about 2000 miles on my Frequent Flyer card since January, so I'm ready to just do a few road trips for the rest of the year. I've got a book signing in Iowa in November and then I'm just going to kick back and relax for the holidays, as well as get some serious writing done.

After I finish *Lie To Me*, I'll have edits to get done for *Shadow of Doubt*. I'm waiting to hear from the agent I accidentally pitched to about the Oz book. If she likes it, I'll bet there will be some edits to do there. If she doesn't, then I'll pitch it to my editor at Wild Rose. I want to get started on my 2011 publishing year since 2010 is already booked solid.



I also have three other books done that I want to pitch to my editor. I just need to go back, re-read them and make sure they're in good shape. Then I'll fire them off to her and we'll see if 2012 has some books in my future... I suspect it might!