



## As The Author Learns

*Bits & bites about publishing & writing from*

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### What's Happening?

Is it mid-August already? Wow, where has the time gone?

I had a busy time since last I wrote. First up was the Romancing the Lakes conference and for a first-time conference, I have to tell you, it was excellent. It was small (about 30 or so people), but that was great because I had a chance to really connect with the readers there. I gave a brief talk about my publication experiences and talked about self-publishing and how it's been for me. It was a busy weekend, but a lot of fun.

PLUS it was held at a casino, and we all know how I love casinos! Better yet, I won \$400 playing the slot machines, so it was all good!

After that was the author event in my local town. I was surprised how well attended it was. There were about 75 people there, all of whom were anxious to find out about writing and the publishing business.

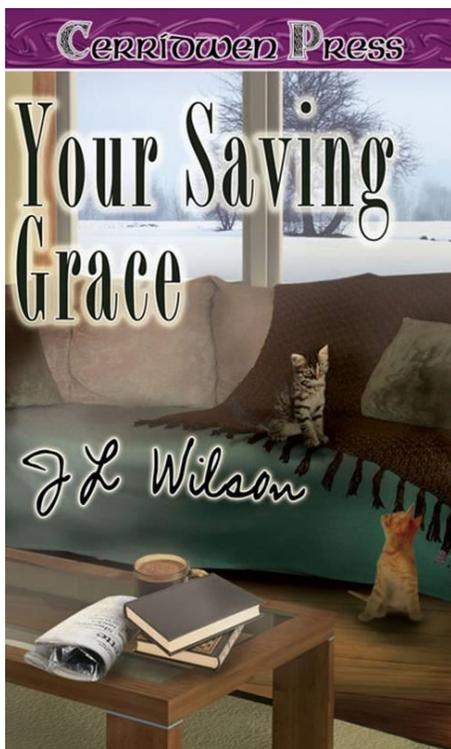
Most people seemed interested in writing memoirs or family stories. That was interesting to me because I had never really considered that. I was on a panel with two other authors, each of whom had written a memoir type book, one about fellow Viet Nam war vets, and another who wrote his grandparents' history.

Another thing that was quite interesting about that event was how many published authors are here, in my little corner of the world. Granted, none of us are best-selling authors, but I was surprised to find so many folks who have a published book or two to their credit.

In between those events I worked on getting my second book ready for a re-release. I revised it in quite a few ways and I renamed it, came up with a new back cover blurb, and a new tagline. I hope to have it ready for the fall.

One of the big parts of that was to get a new cover, since I have always disliked the original cover. I argued with my editor and my publisher about that old cover, and was turned down when I requested a revision.

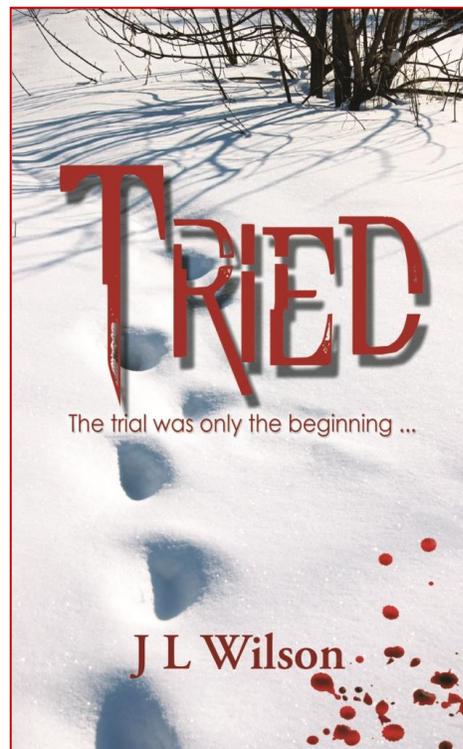
Now look at my new cover (on the next page).



<- Old cover

New cover ->

I like the new cover much better.



## In Other News

I finished *Dogged*, my Sherlock Holmes story! I really loved the plot twists it took, none of which I planned. I finished it right before I left town for my conference, so I was able to wrap it up in the time I wanted.

Now I'm working on my science fiction series, revisiting those characters and making notes for how I want that series of books to play out. I'd like to work on that for the next couple of months and get the first 3 books in the series done.

Then I'm turning my attention to a new mystery which is percolating in my mind. I actually came up with the characters, and now I have to find a plot to match them. I think I have the "theme" for the book -- now I just have to decide who to murder.

Yes, sometimes, it's good to be me (wink).

## What's Next?

First I have Boomtown, the annual celebration of All Things Fireworks in my home town. We have several friends coming to visit for that event, so it will be a good time for sure.

Then I'm off again, this time for a fast trip to Minnesota for a one-day writer's conference, this one dubbed the Mystery Writers' Police Academy. It's a chance to hear law enforcement officers talk about details that I can use in a book. I'll probably stay overnight and will come back on Sunday, giving me a chance to stop at a casino on the way home.

And then -- writing, writing, and more writing!