



## As The Author Learns

*Bits & bites about publishing & writing from*

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### What's Happening?

Well, as they say: the best laid plans often go awry.

I was supposed to go to a conference earlier this month, but a good friend passed away and the funeral was on the same day I was due to arrive at the conference.

I scrambled, trying to find a way I could do both: go to the funeral and get to the conference. There just wasn't a simple or convenient way to do it (especially given the iffy weather in the Midwest at this time of year).

So I decided to cancel the conference and go to the funeral instead. I was due to speak on a couple of panels, but there were several authors on the panel, so I knew they would pick up the slack for me. In the end, I'm so glad I went to the funeral because I wanted to see the family and my friends, and help celebrate my friend's life.

Sometimes life just throws curve balls and all you can do is try to react the best you can. Remember my 'theme word' for the year -- flexible. Yep, I stayed flexible and it all worked out for the best.

Let's see, how else am I being flexible? As I mentioned in my last newsletter, my favorite publisher, the Wild Rose Press, is opening to new submissions and I had a book I wanted to submit to them. So I spent an intensive two weeks trying to whip it into shape, and just sent it off to my editor there for her review. I am currently keeping my fingers crossed that it will be accepted for publication. It is one of my favorite books, but it's a bit unusual in that it has a 1<sup>st</sup> person narrator (as I often do), but this has a male point of view and I have other chapters interspersed with the 1<sup>st</sup> person chapters that relate to events from years in the past.



It's a back-and-forth kind of book, and I'm not sure it's what the publisher will accept. I would really like this book to find a home and I like this publisher. I want to keep a book a year with them if I can because I think it helps to broaden my fan base. Here's hoping...

After that diversion into editing, I am back at work on writing, this time on my Endless American Dream series. It was a toss-up whether to work on it or on another mystery that I have percolating in the back of my head, but the Dream won out. I am hoping (hoping hoping!) to get Book 2 done and a good start done on Book 3 before summertime. I think it's doable, but it means I really need to knuckle down and focus.

And, yes, I have a new book percolating in the back of my brain. Like my Oz book and my Robin Hood book, this one has characters from some favorite fiction: Sherlock Holmes. I'm going to try my hand at a *Hound of the Baskerville* book, but the main character won't be Holmes. The main character is Acie Doyle (Annabelle Clarice, or A.C.) who has a heck of a time keeping her two eccentric aunts from investigating every supposed crime in their town. The aunts? Joan Watson and Sherry Holmes.

Stay tuned. Should be fun.

### [In Other News](#)

I am staying on track with my two of my three goals for the year. One seems to have fallen by the wayside. I've been eating right and I've been writing daily. But alas, my goal of doing daily promo only lasted about a month.

However, I *have* been working on promotional items to give away at conferences. I've been creating little mini-booklets which contain the first chapter of a book. I figured out a relatively inexpensive way to produce them, but it does mean that I have to do some of the assembling. I decided rather than have it be a chore I'll do something interesting while I assemble. I'm listening to a college lecture on DVD as I put together my little booklets. It keeps my mind engaged and the time just flies by.

### [What's Next?](#)

I'm going to do a final read-through of *Righter* then I'll send it to my formatting person for release, hopefully in March. This was a book that I plotted a few years back at one of our gambling retreats, and I twisted the premise to come up with Mick Braddock, former Hollywood actor and now a best-selling author. Mick is out to right an old wrong, but if he's not careful, the past may catch up to him with a bang.

Also coming up is an extremely stressful few weeks, which I am not at liberty to discuss in detail. Suffice it to say, we may finally get resolution on the legal problems that have plagued us for the last two years. So please send positive energy my way on February 22. If I can get things resolved, a HUGE black cloud that has been hanging over me will finally go away.

Keep thinking those positive thoughts!

