



## As the Author Learns

*Bits & bites about publishing & writing from*

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### What's Happening?

I am not retired!

Yes, I know. In my last newsletter, I said that I had retired, but ... an odd thing happened. As you all know, I'm a Master Gardener, and the volunteer coordinator for the MGs left that job. Some folks there asked me to step in and take it over.

It's a 30-hour a week job and it's a bit of a challenge. We've had a lot of different coordinators for the past few years (sort of a revolving door of coordinators) and many things sort of fell through the cracks. So I'll probably spend the first month or two putting out fires and getting things organized. After that, I hope it'll be smooth sailing. I hope!

I started the job a week ago and so far, it's working out fine. I'm an early morning person, so I get up, do my daily exercise, then get a bit of writing done before I go to the office (yes, I have to go to an office!) But I have my own office, so that's nice. I work for a few hours then I come home. I just keep an eye on the timeclock, and when I'm at 30 hours, I finish up for the week.

I still have plenty of time for writing. This does put a bit of a crimp into some of my Writing Business Stuff, but that's okay. That kind of concentration requires a whole different focus than creative writing and it can be distracting. I'm working on the Business Stuff throughout the weekend, as a break from the real thing. So far, so good!

It's funny--when I told some folks I was taking on a part-time job, many of them said, "Yeah, I wondered how long it would be before you started working again. You're just not a retired person type."

Hmm. How well they know me?

I always thought I might work part-time, but I thought it might be later, not sooner. When this job opened up, I didn't think about applying. I just retired, right? But the more I thought about it, the more I thought it might be a good fit.

We shall see!

## In Other News

My October was super busy. We went on vacation then I had my casino outing with my writing buddies and I brainstormed some great ideas for upcoming books. I also had some family stuff to do (a sister who was in the hospital, so I spent time with her).

In November, I did NaNo (National Novel Writing Month) and I wrote a book in the Celestial Service series. NaNo is a real grind sometimes, and this one was tough. I wrote every day and finished the book on November 30 with 65,000 words. That's a bit short for me, but I'm sure when I go back and look at it, I'll add a few thousand words here and there.

This was another book that I tied into my Endless Dream series, so I worked that into the plot. Lots of fun but also tricky because it has to be a standalone story but also has to use some of the characters from that series.

On December 1 I began reviews of the eight books I've written for the Endless Dream. I'm taking my time, going through and reading them carefully, all leading up to starting to write the final book in the series on January 1.

## What's Next?

I'm sure work will keep me busy into the new year. We have a few major events coming up and I'll be involved in helping with the planning for those.

Plus I'll be writing-writing-writing for the first half of 2019. I want to wrap up the Endless Dream series (the first 9 books) and get a clear idea of what I'll write for the next book in the series. That will take place about 50+ years after the end of the first part of series. It's a next-generation sort of book. Then I'll review the final-final book, Book 11, which finishes up the whole shebang.



I'd like to get another Classics mystery written, perhaps later next year, and review another one to submit to my editor. I finished edits for *Pried* but haven't seen the cover yet (nail-biting time). It's about time for me to submit a new one if I want to have two books out next year.

I also need to work on my Writing Business Stuff. I want to reformat and re-launch some of those books that were returned to me. They'll need new covers, a bit of editing, and promo, of course. That's going to be quite a lot of work, I fear.

Plus I still want to look at setting up my own "company" (an LLC), and figure out the copyright and other legal aspects.

And there's the holidays. My celebrations are pretty low-key, but I still want to kick back and relax and enjoy it, especially since I'm now working again.

Looks like 2019 will be a busy one! I hope you enjoy your holidays--see you next year. ☺