



As the Author Learns

Bits & bites about publishing & writing from

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that defy categorizing*

What's Happening?

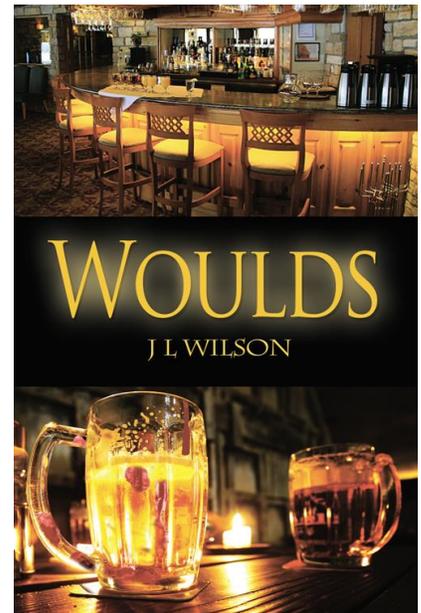
I am retired! That happy little clock up there in the corner is my way of saying I no longer punch a clock. I'm not employed by anybody but me now. It took me a long time to come to a decision. I liked my job and I enjoyed the people I worked with. It helped a lot that I telecommuted full-time, and so I didn't have to socialize on a daily basis. I had goals, I had deadlines, and as long as I met them, I was fine.

But the managers started talking about the new plans in the works for next year, and the new features coming up and I realized that I just really didn't care much anymore. That's when I knew it was time--when I knew I would just be punching a clock and not really caring about what I did.

I told my boss in July and we worked throughout August and September to get my workload reassigned, get duties handed off, etc. I was the main contact person for our group and I handled a lot of small, picky details. I made notes throughout those two months about what I worked on so I could hand it off to others. In the end, pieces of my workload were reassigned to three different people.

My last 'official' day was on a Friday and the next day we took off for a week of vacation, a getaway we had planned long before I decided to retire. It was a nice feeling to know that when I came back, I had no pressing duties, no deadlines, and no obligations. Of course, that doesn't mean I'm not busy.

There's a lot on my plate right now. First of all: a book! *Woulds* released on October 10 and I've been busy with promotion for that. If you want to find out about the book (and have a nice shortcut to all of those handy little "Buy" links), go to the *Woulds* page at <http://bit.ly/WouldsBook>. That's your one-stop location for a link to the character list, a bit of information about the book, and of course, those all-important purchase links.



Someone asked me once about how to get "real" copies of my books (i.e., paper copies). They're all available in paperback as well as downloadable ebooks. Just visit any of those links and you can find how to purchase a book in paper, as well as digital.

In Other News

I signed a contract for *Pried*, my "Pride and Prejudice" story. I don't know when it'll releasee, but I suspect it might be in the spring next year. You know what that means -- I now have to work on my ideas for cover art, figure out promotional information for it, and get ready for edits (hopefully, not too many). Oh, and decide what book to submit next.

And I'm sorry to say that one of my publishers is folding. Yep, the folks at Resplendence Press have decided to close their doors. I have four books with them, so the rights will be returned to me and I will need to package those books up and sell them on my own.

Brilliant Disguise, *Lie to Me*, *Nowhere to Run*, and *Shadow of Doubt* will be edited a bit and given new covers. I also plan to edit *If Not For You* (which was returned to me earlier this year) and I will tie it in to the four books coming back. Then I plan to release them all as a boxed set on Amazon.

Isn't it lucky that I am now retired so I can spend some time working on things like this? I have a lot of information I've gleaned from conferences about how to handle a self-publishing career, and it looks like I will need to put it all to use. I want to set up my own "company" (an LLC), learn to format books, work with a cover artist on new covers, and figure out the copyright and other legal aspects.

It's a good thing I retired so I can expand on my career ☺

What's Next?

It's Casino Time! My friends and I are heading to the wilds of Wisconsin to gamble and brainstorm books. I want to work out the details for my Little Mermaid book, and maybe gather some inspiration for the current book I'm writing.

It's another Celestial Service book, and I found a way to tie it into my Endless American Dream series. By the time I'm done, all of my History Patrol books, the Celestial Service books, my New Human books, and my Dream series books will all be tied together.

I re-did my wiki to keep track of all the series in one place and did a bit of tweaking on the History Patrol books to tie them in with the others. When the time comes (in a year or so), I hope to release all the Celestial Service books (three, by then), the History Patrol books (three of them), the New Human series (I'll have rights returned to me so I can tweak them), and my Dream Series books. Twenty books releasing in one year.

Yep. Glad I retired. I'm going to be busy!

