



As the Author Learns

Bits & bites about publishing & writing from

J L Wilson

*Author of mysteries, time travel, romances, & other books
that defy categorizing*

What's Happening?

Welcome to 2019! It's time for my annual Privacy Policy review, so here it is:

I send my newsletter to people who requested it, either by giving me their email address or by signing up via Yahoo in my Yahoo group. If my personal email is hacked, I'll do what I can to prevent anyone getting your email address. Yahoo manages my newsletter group and as such it falls under Yahoo's policies. My website is part of my blog on Google and as such it uses Google's privacy policies. If you don't want to hear from me, send me an email and I'll remove your name either from my email list or my group.

Okay, now that we have that done, let's get on to fun stuff. What's happening?

Well, I'm busy, but that's no surprise, right? My part-time job is keeping me hopping, mainly because this is our busy time. Busy? Winter? For gardeners? Yes, it is. We have a major event coming up (the one I ran a few years ago). We have Master Gardeners going out to speak at libraries in March and April. We have outside speakers coming in to speak. We have a plant sale in May and a big garden showcase in July.

And that's all on top of the ongoing projects: community gardens, working with teachers to implement garden curriculum, answering garden-related questions, speaking at garden clubs, partnering with organizations to provide food and/or information...the list goes on!

There are 170 Master Gardeners in my county and I'm responsible for making sure they have what they need to do the volunteering they do. That may include buying diesel fuel for the greenhouse, or getting the right books for a project, or finding additional volunteers to help with a project.

January to April is when all the intensive planning takes place. Starting in April we'll begin to implement it all: getting into gardens to work, working with teachers to design curriculum for next year, gathering Master Gardener volunteers and community volunteers to help throughout the growing season at our community gardens.

Once the summer is in full swing, I have to start working on training the next class of Master Gardeners. Our training goes from August to November, every week, and I'll facilitate that

by lining up people to do demonstrations, give tours, and assist in delivering the curriculum.

After that wraps up, I verify that everyone finished their requirements to remain a Master Gardener (a minimum of 20 hours a year of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education). Then in January--I start all over again. Every day is a challenge!

In Other News

I finished my edits for *Pried*, my next Remembered Classics book. I still haven't seen a cover and yes, I'm nervous about that. I'm always nervous about my covers because so much is out of my hands. But it *is* out of my hands, so I'm trying not to sweat it.

I finished my review of all the Endless Dream books and decided I needed to rewrite Book 8 and make it Book 9. It just had the feel of a final book in a series. I'm taking parts of the original Book 8 for Book 9, parts of Book 7 to move to Book 8, then writing an all new Book 8.

Confused? I was, when I started out. I ended up doing some serious planning to get it all on track again. Remember, book 9 will be the final book in the series, so in Book 8 and Book 9, I need to tie up a lot of plot points.

The good news is that I think I have a nice, solid finish to this entire saga. I'm sure there are parts of it I'm going to tweak. After all, there are more than 100 characters and several different plot lines and four major protagonists. That's a lot to wrap up! But wrapping it up I am. My hope is to have my revised Book 8 and Book 9 done by July.

For the rest of the year I want to work on deciding how to handle those books that were returned to me: *Lie to Me*, *Brilliant Disguise*, *Shadow of Doubt*, *If Not For You*, and *Nowhere to Run*. I want to revisit them, do some editing, get new covers--the whole publishing thing. Either I'll do it or I'll find a publisher to help me.

I need to focus on the business end of writing for at least a month or two, then I'll switch back to writing. I want to prep another Remembered Classics book to submit and perhaps write another one. I also have an idea for a Celestial Service book to work on. Toss in a few vacation trips here and there, and before you know it, the year is over!

What's Next?

For the immediate future, I need to survive February and all the weird weather being tossed our way. I'm in the Midwest and it has been crazy! I also want to survive the major event coming up on Saturday and after that, I can take a breather.

In between my job, I'll be writing like crazy, trying to wrap up two books in the time it usually takes me to write one. Yep. Busy!

