



As the Author Learns

Bits & bites about publishing & writing from

J L Wilson

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

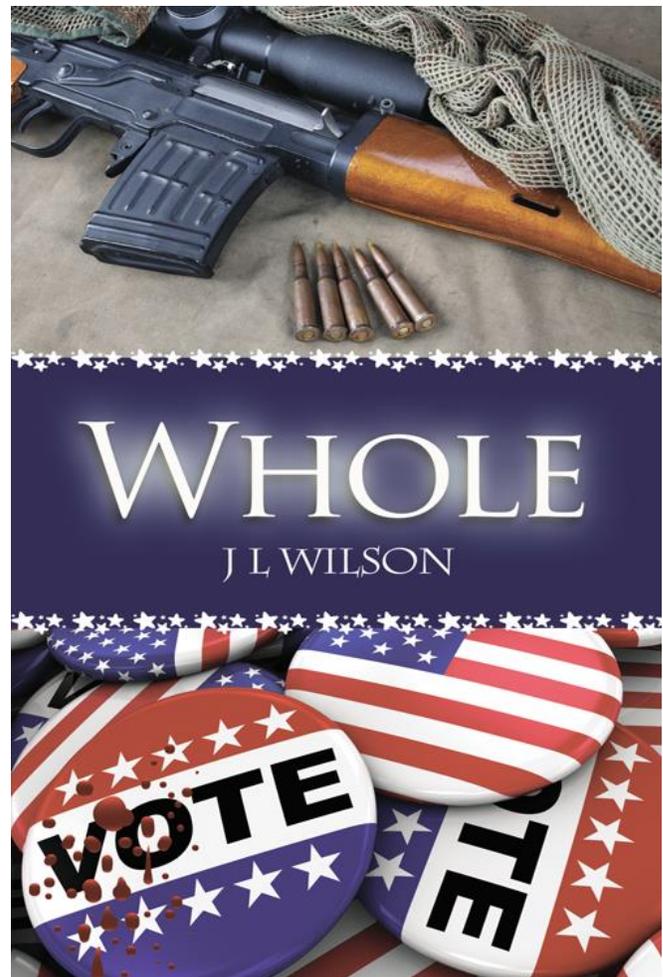
What's Happening?

It's Cover Reveal time! I don't have a release date, but I do have a cover for the next Remembered Classics book -- *Whole*.

This is my Alice in Wonderland story in which Alice (a.k.a. Ally Oop), reunites with Madison Asa Hatterly (the Hatter), aided by Butterfield (a.k.a. The Butterfly) to defeat the Red Queen (Roberta "Ruby" Hart), who is a crooked politician.

Asa was in the Army and was a sharpshooter, hence the gun in the top frame. He finds Alice to help him reconnect the missing pieces from his past. They were child geniuses who were thrown together when they both attended college and were the youngest people there (in their early teens). Then he was framed for murder and sent to prison. He needs Alice to help him discover if he truly committed the crime he served time for doing.

This is a "dual" book: it starts in the present day then Alice tells the story in the past, when Asa finds her again and they try to find the missing pieces of his life. I had a tricky time writing this one -- I had to keep all my dates and facts straight, not to mention researching Burbank in the early 1970s, guns and long-distance shooting, and political campaigns. I've finished all the edits for this one so I should be getting a release date soon.



In Other News

I had a bit of travel in June and July. In June, I went to Philadelphia for a Master Gardener conference. That was a very interesting experience. I've only been to technical conferences or writing conferences, so this was the first time I was around horticulturists.

It was a very well-run conference with a bunch of off-site opportunities for gardeners to visit historic gardens in the area. And the vendors were totally different than any vendors I've seen at other conferences -- at this one, I was able to get cures for poison ivy rash, birdhouses, and field guides to butterflies and native bees. Usually someone is selling computers, or anti-virus software, or book-related merchandise. It was a very unique and enjoyable experience.

In July I had some family time in the Twin Cities, playing sightseer at spots I haven't been to in a long, long time. The Mall of America was thoroughly visited, as was the Sculpture Gardens, Paisley Park (home of Prince), and a foray into downtown St. Paul. A good time was had by all, especially me -- in a way, it was like going back to a hometown for a nice long visit.

Of course, I've been writing in between all my traveling, too. My Little Mermaid book is coming along nicely. I thought one character was going to be the victim, but when I went back and re-read the original story, I realized somebody else needed to die. I was about half-way through the book and had to re-read what I wrote and do a bit of rewriting. But I think it's a stronger book for having the right motivation and now I can proceed with an even stronger hero and heroine.

This book takes place in a lakeside town and the heroine owns a bakery. I've had so much fun researching what it takes to run a bakery, how to make wedding cakes, and what kind of layout is used in a commercial kitchen. I had no idea it took so many days to craft a unique wedding cake. There are layers of frosting, and construction, and dowels and ... That's one reason I love writing--I get to research so many interesting things!

What's Next?

I'm going to be involved with training the next batch of Master Gardeners starting this week. We have 11 weeks of training and I don't do the actual training--I just make sure I have trainers lined up for the "students". I'm sure I'll learn a bit along the way, too. It's been awhile since I had my MG training and I could use the refresher.

I'll also be giving a talk in Minnesota at the writer's group where I'm a member, talking about *Pried* and how I wrote that book. I like getting together with writing folks at least once a year. It's fun to be among people who love to plot books and talk character development.

My annual gambling trip will be coming up in October and I need to decide what book to brainstorm there. I plan to have *Beached* wrapped up by then, so I want a new book to plan. I'm considering *Sleeping Beauty*, *Rapunzel*, or *Rumpelstiltskin*.

Decisions, decisions, decisions ...