



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?

Book release time! If you follow me on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/jayeAtplay>) you know about *Whole*, which released in early December.

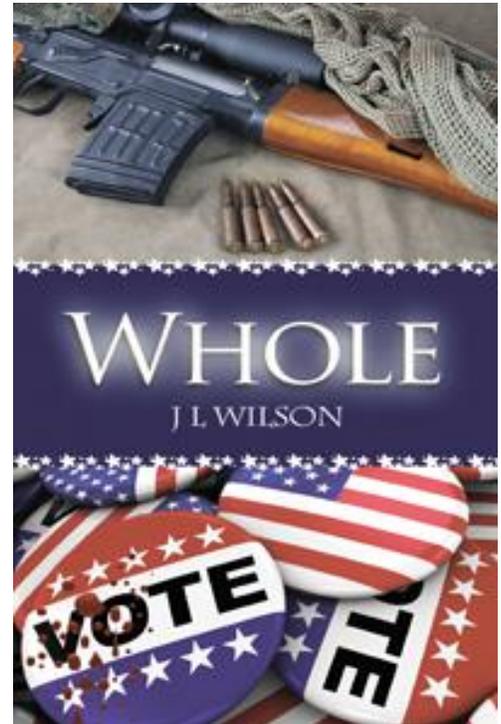
Talk about your good timing -- I was working on a manuscript in November for NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) and I really wanted to finish it before I started promoting *Whole*. I finished *Shooed* (Cinderella's story) the night before my release date.

It's very hard to switch from one set of characters to another, so I was happy to wrap up all the creative activity around *Shooed* before I dug back into *Whole* and reacquainted myself with those characters.

Whole is one of those dual books: the first chapter takes place in the present day, the majority of the book takes place in the past, then the final chapter takes place in the present day. It's all about revenge, trust, and reality-- what is real and what isn't?

The hero was duped, years ago, into doing something that ended up with him going to prison. He trusted someone and look where it landed him. When he gets out, he realizes what was done to him and he needs one person to help him decipher what really happened-- the heroine, whom he knew when he was young.

This was a tricky book to write because technology plays a huge role in the story and I had to be sure my "in the past" technology made sense. Who remembers floppy disks and zip drives? This era was before mobile phones were prevalent and before Google and other search engines. This meant that some plot points couldn't be solved immediately, or that the hero and heroine had to go to the library to do their research. I needed to keep those older technology thoughts in mind as I worked out the plot. Like I said: tricky.



In Other News

Shooed really came together fast, thanks in a large part to my creative writing friends and that gambling trip I had in October. We went through a lot of possible scenes and conflicts, and they helped me narrow down the story to what it is today.

I think in my last newsletter, I mentioned that I was working on the percolation phase of the book -- getting an idea for backgrounds, motivations, etc. Once I sat down to write, I could easily hear the voices in my head, which makes it *so* much easier to write. There were very few hesitations, very few false starts, and all in all -- it worked out nicely.

The funny thing is that a lot of what I thought would be included in the plot just didn't happen. Yes, the heroine works with someone in wildlife rehabilitation and yes, there's a wealthy developer moving in to do construction nearby, but everything else I thought would happen just didn't. My characters took me in a different direction and I was just along for the ride. Sometimes it happens that way!

What's Next?

I have big goals for the rest of this month. I want to review those five books that were returned to me from my publisher and get those ready for release.

I'll need to work with a designer on the covers, but that might come next year. For now, if I can get them edited and formatted I'll be happy. It means I'll need to learn a new publishing tool and I hope that will go smoothly.

I want to wrap that up by the end of the year so next year I can dig in and work on the Endless American Dream series. I need to review the original nine books I've written and fill in any gaps where I missed something. This will be a very in-depth critical review and I expect that to take me a month or more.

Once I have that done, I hope to be able to write the next book in the series. That takes place decades *after* the first three volumes and decades *before* the last books. I need to envision an entirely new kind of America, one that survived the turmoil and has re-created itself. In many ways, this will be my "what I hope America might be" kind of vision. Many current-day problems will be solved, but new ones will have arisen. How will my new characters face those problems? And how does what they do create the society that I wrote about in those final books (already in print).

I will also need to fit in work, because the January and February months are my busy time with the Master Gardeners. We have a major event coming up plus planning is underway for all kinds of events for next year.

Yep. I'll be busy. But that's how I like it. Have a great holiday season and I'll be back in February!

