



As the Author Learns

Bits & bites about publishing & writing from

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that defy categorizing*

What's Happening?

You're getting this newsletter early because (hopefully) I'll be moving on the day I normally send it out. Everybody send positive mojo our way, okay?

Our closing on the new house was delayed a week because -- yes, you guessed it -- the pandemic has messed up everything, including new home building. Our builder said that he's had to juggle schedules because of quarantines. We were supposed to close on December 7, but it's been pushed to December 14. We had a walk-through at the new place on Friday and everything looks good. But our mortgage folks hit a glitch and I found out about that at midnight last night, so we're HOPING we'll close on December 14 so we can take possession because I have movers scheduled for the 15th.

Keep your fingers crossed.

We had initially thought we'd be moving in mid-October. We had an offer on a place, but that fell through when the inspection turned up some oddities. So I've been packing since late September and to be honest, I have no idea what is in some of these boxes. It'll be a bit like Christmas when we finally do unpack.

We're moving about 25 miles south of where we currently live. Our current town is slowly recovering from the derecho which flattened the area. Some people have just gotten their new roofs put on. We were lucky; we got our new roof almost immediately, but we had some leaking post-new-roof which the roofer handled. But our neighbors are just now moving back into their house which was severely damaged when a tree came through the back and tore out part of the living room.

Wherever you go in town, you still see the destruction -- houses with boarded-up windows, houses with no siding, huge holes where trees once stood. It's been tough for the construction crews to get materials. In fact, the builder of our new house has had to put all new construction on hold because he can't get materials. The last of the out-of-state electric teams just left town last month after two solid months of working to get all our power lines up and running again. And the Internet is still iffy for many people. Add the pandemic on top of this, and it's been a real struggle.

In Other News

I'm still working at my job as Master Gardener Coordinator, at least until the end of this month when I will really retire. I held training for the new MGs via Zoom meetings, which was a challenge when the Internet was still iffy (see above) and when people were still digging out from the hurricane. But we got through it and we have 14 new people on the roster. I helped get new programming set up for virtual instruction next year to replace our big garden fair (which we can't have because of -- yes -- the pandemic).

I did get out of town for my weekend get-away with my casino buddies. We didn't go to a casino, but friends opened their houses to us so we could brainstorm books. As always, I got some great ideas for a book I'm working on that features the derecho and all the destruction. I used NaNoWriMo in November to work on my Sleeping Beauty book, tentatively titled *Thorned*. A body is found in the heroine's tree debris that's piled up at the curb. I figure this damn storm has to be useful for something, so I'm putting it in a book.



All of that has been keeping me busy along with documenting all that I do to hand off my job duties to a temporary person until they get someone hired. I confess, I am looking forward to retirement.

What am I going to be doing?

What's Next?

Moving and unpacking will probably take up most of this month and part of next, then I have some thoughts on what I'll be doing with all that free retirement time.

During our not-casino-weekend, we had a marvelous Zoom alumni reunion with previous attendees. I'm working on plans for an all-Zoom "stay-in-place" brainstorming day for the early spring so we can all get together safely and talk about writing and get caught up.

I'm going to finish *Thorned* by the end of the year and I want to go back to my Rapunzel book (*Heir*) and maybe finish it, too (I know--packing, moving, working. Two books? Really?)

I'll have edits to do on my Little Mermaid book (*Beached*) and I want to work on promo for the books I have published (I think I'm up to 35 now). They're all listed on my Books2Read site: <https://books2read.com/ap/xKkz7Z/J-L-Wilson>.

I have ideas for covers for my Big Series. I'm going to start reviewing it in January and get those published, maybe by spring. And I have ideas for covers for the Celestial Service books, and the final threesome in my series.

I hope everyone out there stays safe, stays healthy and I hope you all have a good holiday season. It's not a typical one by any means, but I hope we can all get through these challenges and move on to better times in 2021!