



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?

Summer is winding down and I'm gearing up for my most productive time of the year – wintertime. I don't know why it is, but I feel like I accomplish so much more during the fall and winter. I'm not sure that's really true, but it feels that way.

I still have a lot of things on my "want to get done this year" list so I'm glad I'm heading into what I hope will be my busy time. I have a couple of books to review and I'm beginning to work on background and thoughts for my Ugly Duckling story (tentatively titled "Beaked").

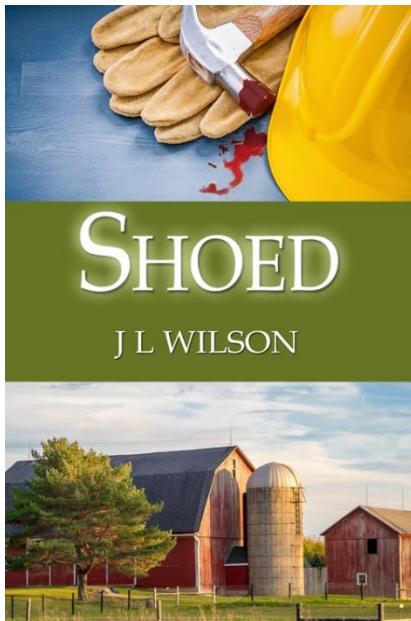
I brainstormed this book with my group last month and got a lot of good ideas for where I want the plot to go. As always, I've borrowed ideas from some other authors for origin stories for my characters, hoping to make them a bit unusual or give them a background that will play into the plot.

For my UD book, I'm going to switch it up and have my hero be the upbeat, happy, optimistic character and my heroine will be the more reticent person because of her background as an orphan who had life-changing surgery when she was young which turned her into a 'swan'. That changed set her on the path where she is today, running a successful business and helping others.

I still have quite a few details to flesh out but I'm hoping by the time NaNo starts (National Novel Writing Month in November), I'll be ready to actually start writing. I already have a few snippets and scenes worked out and I kind of know how it's going to end, but there's a lot to fill in between open and close. Fingers don't fail me now!

In Other News

I submitted my Red Riding Hood book for consideration as my next Remembered Classics romance. It's the one about the serial killer in northern Minnesota and the heroine who runs a business that outfits people for camping adventures in the northern woods. I had such a good time envisioning this location, that business, the town, and not to mention figuring out how someone could pull off a series of grisly murders without anyone realizing they're all related. Until my characters figure it out, of course.



My Cinderella book, *Shoed*, is releasing on October 16. It's available right here: <https://www.amazon.com/Shoed-Remembered-Classics-Romance-Book-ebook/dp/B0DCC6J5NR/>.

In an interesting twist of 'real life meets fiction', an idea I had in the book for a consciously-crafted farm/residential cooperative housing project is actually underway in a nearby town. I know I've read about such developments in the past but the one nearby is just getting started.

Life imitates art or art imitates life. Who knows?

I've done a bit of promotion for this one, including crafting a post at the Shepherd website. If you haven't checked it out, I think you should.

This site showcases authors who create recommendations about books they like that address a particular topic like, oh, 'three books that feature cats as characters' or, as I did, my favorite books of the year.

<https://shepherd.com/bboy/2024/f/j-l-wilson>

It's a great way to see what other people are reading and why they did or didn't like what they read. I think word of mouth is maybe the best way to promote something and that's what Shepherd is all about. I've been posting 'favorites' there for a year or two and it's fun to challenge myself into describing why I do or don't like a book.

What's Next?

I have a few months to wrap up this year and a lot of things to still get accomplished. I was waylaid a bit by a bum hip earlier in the year, but I don't want to let that get in the way of my goals. I did meet one goal and that's to review all the information I've collected so far for my big series and for all my books. I have it collected now in two spots, so I feel confident I can remove the website I created for it (until it comes time to delete the website; I'm sure I'll falter and second guess myself).

I still want to explore audio books, but I'm not quite sure how to tackle that one. I think I may push that to next year. I have very good ideas on where to find a cover artist if I decide to self-publish my series and I have a good idea of what I want on the cover, so that process should go well.

I do want to toss out a few queries to agents about the series, though, and see if I can get a publisher interested in the books. It's really just a matter of sitting down, focusing, and getting the agents researched and the queries written. Sounds easy, doesn't it?

I'll report back at the end of the year if I managed to get it all done.

Wish me luck!