

# Through the Power of Words

## March 2023 Terri Maue Newsletter

English is a living language, which means that new words are always being added.

Case in point: hangry, the state of being irritable because you're hungry.

Can you guess what slangry means? Answer at the end of this newsletter.



I hope you enjoy this issue of my infant newsletter. Please feel free to send your comments and suggestions to

[terri@terrimaue.com](mailto:terri@terrimaue.com).



### ***Knife Edge* 2023 publication: August 8! (still semi-firm)**

One of my writer friends advises me that publishing is a waiting game. That's my experience so far. I'm still eagerly anticipating my first look at the cover for *Knife Edge*. I'm even looking forward to the arduous task of proofing the galleys. Meanwhile, I'm about two-thirds of the way through the third (at least) revision of book 2 of the Zee and Rico series. For me, the best remedy for impatience is creativity!

### **A Book Launch with a Pastry Bonus**

A couple of weeks ago, I attended my first book launch. Las Vegas author Diana Fedorak celebrated the release of *Children of Alpheios* at Café Lola on Rainbow Blvd. This little shop is a delightful place where I also enjoyed a wonderful fresh cinnamon roll. (More on that in the pastry hunt report.)

I wanted to share Diana's big day, and truth be told, collect a few ideas for my own book launch. Okay, and live a bit vicariously. Seeing Diana's dream become real helps me believe mine will, too.

The excitement of the day was contagious. We drank champagne, nibbled on savory delicacies from charcuterie boards, and of course, bought books. We listened to a snippet from *Children of Alpheios*, heard a bit of Diana's author journey, and eagerly scanned our tickets for door prizes.

Best of all was the camaraderie of my writer colleagues, including Rae Murphy, seen in this photo with me. Rae had an extra reason to smile. He had just received a contract for his book, tentatively titled *Prom Day*.

I left the event with several ideas and the great warm feeling that comes from sharing the joy of Diana's and Rae's accomplishments. It really is a blast to celebrate someone's success, major achievement or just getting through the day. I hope you have someone to celebrate with soon.

## **The Inside Scoop**

Do you ever wonder how authors come up with character names? I know different writers have different methods. Some look up names that were common during certain periods, say the 1990s or the 1840s. Some search for appropriate ethnic or cultural names. Some may even just use whatever name comes to mind.

For me, a name has to *feel* right. I don't consciously think of attributes, and yet I want a name to somehow invoke a character's traits. So, what I do is hold the character in mind, watch, and wait. Sometimes, the name comes quickly and easily. Other times, I might try out different names, paying attention to see how each one lands.

It's a visceral process. When the right name presents itself, my stomach quivers, or a shiver shinnies up my spine, or excitement sparks in my chest. I feel satisfied. I feel good. I just *know*.

I can't share right now, how I came up with the names of my three major characters, Zee, Rico, and Fontina. I want you to discover their personalities for yourself. But know that the process of naming characters is yet another fascinating part of writing for me.

## **The Great Pastry Hunt: update**

Zee Morani, the protagonist in *Knife Edge*, is legendary for her love of pastry. I've taken on the task of finding one or more particularly tasty delicacies to feature in book 2. (I know, research is hard, but I'm a professional.)

This month's discovery comes from Café Lola.

### Cinnamon Roll

I've heard that you eat first with your eyes, so I took a moment to admire this baked spiral, lightly browned, brushed with frosting (possibly a bit more than I prefer), teasing with tantalizing dark crevices. I uncurled part of a strip. Inside the crusty edge, it separated into delicate, tissue-thin layers.

My eyes having feasted, I popped the piece into my mouth. The pastry was buttery and flaky, lightly sweet and slightly crunchy, especially the outer layer. The ribbon of cinnamon-sugar was spicier than I expected, its piquancy sweetened just enough to enhance the flavor.

I always save the middle for last because it has the most intensity. This one delivered a final tangy flourish, but I could have done with less frosting. Easily remedied next time!

If you want to recommend a pastry, send your suggestion to [terri@terrimaue.com](mailto:terri@terrimaue.com). Zee and I thank you!

Thanks for reading! See you in March!

\*Slangry is the state of being irritable due to lack of sleep. I don't know if this word will catch on, because it's too easy to misinterpret, too easy especially to think it refers in some way to slang. It's fun to invent words, but remember, they need to clearly convey meaning.