

Through the Power of Words

January 2024 Terri Maue Newsletter



Happy New Year!



Whatever Happened to Y2K?

I was shocked to realize that the dreaded year 2000 happened nearly a quarter of a century ago. It's a reminder of the fleeting nature of time. I'm excited to greet a new year and eager to get started on my goals, all the more because I'm aware that the 'far off' deadlines I give myself will be here before I know it.

I spent some time over the last several weeks creating an outline for *Dark Mirror: A Zee & Rico Mystery: Book Two*. I consolidated my notes from 40 or so pages in my files (I tend to scribble down all sorts of ideas and save them as separate documents), and then slotted them in wherever I thought they would fulfill my editor's revision requests.

Meanwhile, I keep sharing *Knife Edge* with interesting and different audiences. Here's where I'll be next:

Monday, January 29, 1-2 p.m.: The Legacy House at Centennial Hills Senior Community, 6310 N. Durango, Las Vegas. This event is open to the public.

Thursday, February 8, 6-8 p.m.: Brew It Coffee House (Authors Do It at Brew It), 601 E Bridger Ave, Las Vegas.

Friday, February 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.: The Coffee Class (Coffee House Tours), 709 E. Horizon Drive Suite 100, Henderson.

Speaking of sharing, my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has posted a review of *Knife Edge*. If you liked the book, please consider posting a review. And if there was something that didn't work for you, please consider emailing me at terri@terrimaue.com.

Coffee House Tour: Skimo's Coffee Shop, 1533 W Sunset Rd, 200

I set up my table in this cozy place and enjoyed greeting and talking with the customers. One person took advantage of my 'elf hat' discount and bought *Knife Edge* for 15% off.



A writer friend, Alicia Blando (author of *Open for Interpretation: A Doctor's Journey into Astrology*), stopped by to have her copy of *Knife Edge* autographed. If you missed having your copy signed, stop and see me at any of my signings, and I'll be glad to sign it for you—and give you a shiny gold sticker to attest to the fact.



The Inside Scoop

The city of Valerian started out as a fairly simple place, but as *Knife Edge* unfolded, Zee's investigation led her to more and more places. I realized I needed help remembering what was where in relation to anything else, so I sketched out a rough map of the place. Since then, I've been including the map with the book at my signings. If you didn't get one when you bought the book, stop and see me. I'll be happy to give you one.

For those who bought the ebook, I'm happy to announce that the map is now available as a download from my website: terrimaue.com. Just click on the Newsletter Archive tab and then click the link to download a jpg of the map. Click the second link to download a pdf key to the map.

While you're there, if you missed any issues of the newsletter, you can also download them in pdf form.

I've been amazed at how excited readers are about the map. Wendy at The Copper Cat Bookstore told me readers love maps, and she was right! At some point, I'll make a better, clearer map of Valerian, but for now, I'm glad to be able to offer the hand-drawn, rough version.

Universal Energy and the Tarot:

A Guest Column by Fontina Fairmaiden

Readers of *Knife Edge* have no doubt noticed that I trust my intuition and call upon it readily. Usually this takes the form of paying close attention, especially to sensations in my body. Everyone does this. Who hasn't noticed a lump in the throat when a strong emotion is stirred? I use those physical signals to delve into what I'm experiencing, to help me decide what, if anything I should do next.

Sometimes, though, I like to use intuitive tools, like the Tarot. There are many ways to consult the Tarot. I like to use it to shed light on a situation, to see things from a different point of view that may, in turn, provide some guidance on the way forward.



The image here is the cover of the companion book to the Osho Zen Tarot, one of my favorite decks—non-spoiler alert: it will be mentioned in book two. The cards are beautiful art in themselves. The interpretations reflect Osho’s view of life as unfolding in wondrous ways.

Terri has allowed me to use her New Year’s Tarot reading as an example. Every year in early January, Terri asks the Tarot what energy will be particularly available to help her achieve her goals in the coming year.

This year, the card that revealed itself for Terri was the Major Arcana VIII: Courage. The image on this card is a flower that is blooming from a crack between tightly packed rocks.

The card depicts courage as the willingness to leave the safety of our hard shells, as the seed must break through its shell so it can grow. Without armor, it goes out into the world. The tender shoot is buffeted, stymied, squeezed by the obstacles of life. Yet without the journey through the unknown, there is no flower.

Terri is sure that 2024 will bring its share of unfamiliar, probably uncomfortable, maybe even scary situations. The card will remind her to embrace vulnerability as a pre-requisite for growth. To remember that it’s a strength, not a weakness.

The universe is composed of energy, and energy is always in motion. If we can move in harmony with it, we will be more likely to achieve our goals. Even better, we will enjoy more deeply all the journey through life.

The Great Pastry Hunt: And the Winners Are ...

Yes, winners. I couldn’t choose only one, so I have two—and now must find two opportunities for Zee to consume these delicious treats. Here they are:

Apple-Raisin-Walnut Strudel from Le Café du Val: 1550 W Horizon Ridge Pkwy. Recommended by my neighbor Brooke.



Tender flakey pastry, like a good pie crust, with a dusting of powdered sugar. It disappears almost before you know you've tasted it. Almost, because the delicacy lingers like a kiss on your tongue.

The fruit filling is luscious. Forget syrupy thickener!

The apples are firm, cooked to perfection to release their juiciness without making the pastry soggy. The smattering of walnut pieces provides an occasional crunchy counterpoint. It's possible that I detected here and there, a burst of intense sweetness that could have been a raisin, but apple dominates. Fruit, nuts, and pastry in perfect proportion. I want more.

Coconut Roll from Delices Gourmands 3620 W Sahara



This roll is like a coconut cream pie I can eat out of my hand. (It's good-sized, so I cut it into quarters to make that easier.) It's fashioned as a spiral. Its crusty, almost caramelized outer layer yields to soft, slightly sweet inner layers of pastry. Cradled in the center is a vanilla-coconut, pudding-like filling, cool and silky on the tongue.

I was a bit nervous to see so much area covered with frosting, but I needn't have worried. The pièce de résistance is actually a thin sugar crust, lavishly garnished with shaved, lightly sweetened coconut.

Thanks to everyone who sent me suggestions. I have more bakeries to visit and more treats to sample. Research for book three!

If you'd like to suggest a bakery, email me at terri@terrimaue.com

Thanks for reading! See you in February 2024!