

# Through the Power of Words

## March 2024 Terri Maue Newsletter



*Writing to me is simply thinking through my fingers. – Isaac Asimov*



### ***Dark Mirror: Zee & Rico Book Two update***

I'm hard at work (see photos) on the next book in the Zee & Rico series. My current deadline to submit revisions is this July. It's daunting at times, but I'm working my way through.



Here I am toiling at my trusty laptop. Wonder what I was thinking about right then? Looks pretty serious.



The big binder is the series bible. It's how I keep track of the characters and places in the books.

The bible holds the map of Valerian and a sketch of Zee's apartment (because I often have to check to see where the sun is and what Zee can see from various rooms).

There are separate character sections for Zee, Rico, Fontina, and Shelby. These sections include details like specific traits and appearance, also family history and explanations of how members of these families met, and how the family paths crossed.

Writing is a complicated business!

### **Here's What I've Been Up To Lately**

I've curtailed author signings for a few months while I focus on doing revisions. I have one announcement, though. I will be a featured guest on the Ladies of Mystery blog. My blog post will drop in the wee hours of April 29. Here's the link: <https://ladiesofmystery.com/2024/04/29/guest-blogger-terri-maue/>

### **The Inside Scoop**

The Asimov quote above reminded me of an exercise I ran across many years ago that clearly demonstrated how much writing helps us think. I invite you to try it now.

On a blank piece of paper, use your finger like a pen and begin to 'write' whatever you want. Notice how quickly you can no longer remember the words you 'wrote' first. Asimov might have been thinking with his fingers, but he was writing with a pen! (Or maybe a typewriter.)

For me, thinking with my fingers looks like this:

I'm chasing an elusive idea, trying to pin it down. I give myself permission to write badly, to write, as my husband would put it, 'drek.' Messy, wordy, sloppy, awful, embarrassing, stuff until I finally get the thought clearly enough. No one ever has to see my process—thank goodness!

Another way for me to think with my fingers is to try to write my idea as simply as possible, using fewer and fewer words until I get to the core of what I want to say. Once I know that, I can play with language to get the nuance right.

And before I leave this topic, I want to thank whoever in my high school recommended I take typing. I have never regretted it.

## **The Great Pastry Hunt**

**Coconut Strudel** from 85C BakeryCafe.



Coconut is one of my favorite flavors, and it's not a common one to find in a pastry unless it's a coconut cream pie. So, when I spied these on the shelf, I eagerly bought one.

I deliberately avoided the filling in my first bite, just so I could enjoy the parchment layers of pastry. They were not overly sweet, with delicate buttery flavor, the perfect cradle for sweet, creamy filling. The top layer was browned, which gave it just a bit of crispness, a nice contrast to the tender inner layers.

The next bite featured the coconut-vanilla filling. I reveled in the vanilla first, smooth, rich, and cool upon my tongue. As the vanilla began to fade, the coconut released a nutty, slightly woody flavor, which lingered as I chewed the tiny shreds.

The thin slices of almond on top added a pleasant crunch.

This was a lovely pastry. I'll be back for more, and to sample others.

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](mailto:terri@terrimaue.com)

Thanks for reading! See you in April!