

Through the Power of Words

June 2024 Terri Maue Newsletter



Think of your main characters as dinner guests. Would your friends want to spend ten hours with the characters you've created? Your characters can be loveable, or they can be evil, but they'd better be compelling.

American author Po Bronson



Knife Edge garners Five-Star Review from Readers' Favorite!



I'm so thrilled to share with you this terrific review from Readers' Favorite.* Here's part of it:

Knife Edge is written with exquisite vocabulary, which underscores the main character's wit and talent as an opinion columnist. The author has taken pains to use circumstances and descriptions to support the main character and mirror her internal struggles in the background. The characters are well-rounded and authentic, making the reader feel part of the story. The town of Valerian is

described with great detail and forms a rich backdrop to the plot, tying in with the theme of mysticism and pagan beliefs as reflected by Fontina and sustained throughout the narrative. The plot develops at a good pace, and the suspense and intrigue keep the reader on the edge of their seat to try to unravel the mystery. However, the twists and false leads keep the resolution hidden to the very end. Most refreshing is Zee, a character who needs to hold on to her individualism but learns to allow her friends to help her in times of need and keep them in the loop when she goes off on one of her hunches. *Knife Edge* is the first book in the Zee and Rico series and proves that Terri Maue has the recipe for staying power in the genre.

Is that cool or what? If you'd like to read the full review, you can click here: <https://readersfavorite.com/book-review/knife-edge>

As a big bonus for a Five-Star review, this review for *Knife Edge* was included in a June 1 mailing to 500,000 libraries, books stores, and schools all over the country. I've also chosen to include it in the monthly Readers' Favorite book giveaway. Here's the link, if you'd like to enter: <https://readersfavorite.com/book-giveaway/knife-edge> Makes a great Father's Day gift!

*Readers' Favorite is one of the largest book review and award contest sites on the Internet. It's earned the respect of publishers like Random House, Simon & Schuster, and Harper Collins, and has received the "Best Websites for Authors" and "Honoring Excellence" awards from the Association of Independent Authors. It is also fully accredited by the BBB (A+ rating), which is a rarity among Book Review and Book Award Contest companies.

Where to Find Me in July

Saturday July 27, 9 am – noon. Hooo-dunnit? Join me at **Bad Owl Coffee Roasters, 10575 S Eastern Ave, Ste 160, Henderson.**



My wise bird friend and I are offering a discount. Pull a slip from his bag and win **10-15-or 20% off** on *Knife Edge*. Now that's a smart buy. 😊

This is a Coffee House Tour event, and I'll be appearing with another local author, Craig E. Higgins. He will be signing his intriguingly titled book, *Artichoke Stars and Chicken Fried Shark*. Here's a tidbit from the description on Amazon: *Fifteen-year-old Mickey Finley's wild imagination is about to become a reality...* OK, I'm curious.



The Inside Scoop

It's been said that there are a finite number of plots in the world. I suspect that's true. But human beings have been telling stories since we could communicate. So, why aren't we all bored silly by now?

My guess is that we still want stories because of the characters. We are insatiably interested in the life stories of other people. Don't get me wrong, the plot is important, but readers have to care about the characters if we want the story to stick.

So, the challenge is to create characters that people want to spend time with. That's especially important for protagonists, since we want readers to root for our main characters, to worry for them, to celebrate with them, to struggle and triumph or fail with them.

My early versions of Zee missed the mark. Although I didn't mean to make her so, she was too foolish, and she often came across as weak. Critique readers kept urging me to make her smarter and stronger. Since I wanted Zee to develop throughout the book, and the series, my challenge was to make her competent and likable, but also flawed so she had room to grow.

I hope I did that. I'm definitely enjoying Zee's continued growth arc in book two. Characters who grow are more fun to spend time with, for writers as well as readers.

The Great Pastry Hunt: A Year-and-a-Half in Review

Cherry Cheese Crowns



During my May visit to Ohio, my sister Jo asked me when I was going to feature the Cheese Crowns she bought for me during my visit last fall. Chagrined that I'd forgotten, I promised to do that in my next newsletter. But when I began to put this newsletter together, I discovered I had featured these absolutely yummy pastries, in September 2023.

So, Jo, this photo's for you and me and our faulty memories!

Someone asked me to list all the pastries featured in the newsletter so far. I thought it would be interesting to see the assortment of goodies I've been sampling on Zee's behalf. Unless otherwise noted, all these are in Las Vegas or Henderson. I hope you find a pastry you'd like to try. I already want to revisit some of these!

- Prague Tea Squares, family recipe – December 2022
- Cinnamon Crunch Danish, Great Buns – January 2023
- Apple-Raisin-Walnut Strudel, Le Café du Val – February 2023
- Cinnamon Roll, Café Lola – March 2023
- Mochinuts, Gabi Boutique – April 2023
- Pecan Roll, Chef Flemming's Bakeshop – May 2023
- Lemon Bars, family recipe – June 2023
- Coconut Roll, Delices Gourmands French Bakery – July 2023
- Strawberries and Cream Roll, Shasta's Sweet Treats (alas, no longer in business) – August 2023
- Cherry Cheese Crown, Servatti's French Bakery, Cincinnati – September 2023
- Daelmans Stroopwafles, Total Wine – October 2023
- Palmiers, ate them at a party, available in stores – November 2023
- Almond Crescents, family recipe – December 2023
- Apple-Raisin-Walnut Strudel & Coconut Roll – January 2024 (Winners that will be in Book Two)
- Fruit Strudel, Patisserie Manon – February 2024
- Coconut Strudel, 85C BakeryCafe – March 2024
- Cinnamon Danish & Buttercrunch Danish, Graeter's in Cincinnati – April 2024
- Lemon Blueberry Hand Pie, Trader Joe's – May 2024

Wow, that's a lot of pastry! And what fun!

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 July!