

Through the Power of Words

May 2024 Terri Maue Newsletter



“The words you speak become the house you live in.”
Rumi



Dark Mirror: Zee & Rico Book Two – Revision Detours

Sometimes when I revise, I solve one problem and create an entirely new one. This is what happened this past month. I had a ‘brilliant’ brainstorm and added a development to ratchet up the tension in a part of the book. (Sorry to be so vague, but you wouldn’t want any spoilers.)

I was feeling pretty good about it when my critique partner pointed out that I had truncated a different development. Essentially, I emphasized an event earlier and then dropped the whole story line.

Argh!

We both agreed we liked my new addition. I couldn’t just cut the earlier event because it was important to the mystery, so I had to figure out how I was going to bring it to fruition.

Fortunately, the same brain that put me into this situation helped me get out of it. All part of the adventure!

Fun at Copper Cat Books

In April, I participated in the Spring Fling at Copper Cat Books. What fun! Here I am with Alan Giek, author of *Uncle Charlie Killed Dutch Schultz*, a fascinating look inside the Jewish Mob in Las Vegas. Despite how it might look, we are not in

a glorious room open to a fabulous vista of blooming trees. We are in front of two tapestries in the back of the bookstore!



In May, I attended the book launch (also at Copper Cat) of *Johnny Lycan and the Last Witchfinder*. Here I am with author Wayne Turmel. This book is the third in his series about a PI who's also a werewolf. I'm pictured buying the second book in the series, *Johnny Lycan and the Vegas Berserker*.



Here's Where You Can Find Me

Buried as I am in revising Zee & Rico Book Two, I am appearing only virtually. My author interview is available on the Coffee House Tours website. Want to know who's my favorite character in the book? Here's the link:

https://coffehousetours.wixsite.com/coffee-house-tours/post/interview-with-author-terri-maue?fbclid=IwAR3wk8wUcLX9d0J0XFElo9T5xVxcf8PTgyk1gwSEKaZNYjFNBc7_ejwxlSg_aem_AWFTE0-KMtSBaDT0ZbiuqUYZgOhabXTxK2EiQaO4MQdwST6JN4lB0bhirJxJ2AJPoRLSAoxu_n_GKjoNcfnEVBp5

I'm a guest on the Ladies of Mystery blog, where I share the story of where I got my main character. Here's the link:

<https://ladiesofmystery.com/2024/04/29/guest-blogger-terri-maue/>

Shelby's Rules for Detection: A Guest Column

Hi all. I've been bugging Terri to let me have a guest column in her newsletter. (Why should Fontina have all the fun?) She finally relented. Guess she appreciated the quirky fun involved in having a fictional character invent a fictional character. (Thanks, Zee.)

I came into Zee's life when she was about nine years old. If you ask me, I think Zee might have been feeling a little overshadowed by Fontina's visit from Uncle Ramiz and her special intuitive gift. I don't think Zee invented me out of spite or anything. What I think happened was that she sort of opened the door to her subconscious, and I slipped out.

Zee, Fontina, and I had a lot of fun back then. We watched those TV mystery shows and tried to figure out whodunnit before the detective did. And we took apart our favorite books and stories, trying to spot all the clues and understand how they added up to finger the culprit.

You might say I'm kind of her muse.

It's a tough job helping Zee stay on track when she's working on solving a mystery, but I'm up for it. And I thought you might like to know how I do it. So, herewith:

Shelby's rules for detection.

1. Everything you know could be wrong.
2. Don't let your brain roll out your earhole.
3. When in doubt, doubt.
4. The tailbone's connected to the brain bone.
5. When your heart barks, listen.

There you go. You can try them out while you're following Zee on her next adventure. See if you figure out which one I'm reminding her of, either directly or indirectly through Fontina or Rico or someone else in the story.

And hey, if you have a rule for detection that you want to share, send it to Terri: terri@terrimaue.com It might make into book two (still under revision) or three. I promise if I like it, I'll lobby for you.

The Great Pastry Hunt

Lemon Blueberry Hand Pie



I picked up this little beauty at Trader Joe's. I'd never eaten a 'hand pie' before, but this is exactly the perfect description.

With the first bite, generous blueberry filling floods my mouth with fresh, lively flavor. Blueberries are naturally sweet, and if sugar has been added to these, it is barely noticeable. It's almost like I'm eating purely sieved fruit. The trace of tart lemon shows up almost as an afterthought, adding sparkle to the berries, enhancing but not overpowering them. As I devour the pastry, I can detect nothing like

thickener, though I reason it must be there. In the deliciously thick, moist filling, all I taste is the fruit.

This glorious filling is wrapped in a first-rate pie crust. The top is flaky, sprinkled with large sugar crystals for a touch of intense sweetness. The bottom is tender, very thin, but firm enough to easily contain the filling.

True to its name, I can actually eat the pie from my hand, with no fear of juice running down my arm or pastry crumbling into messy pieces. Such wizardry!

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 June!