

# Through the Power of Words

## September 2024 Terri Maue Newsletter



*“A creative project is a moving target. You never end up where you start.”*

— Evangeline Lilly, Canadian author and retired actress

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### ***Dark Mirror is Heading for my Editor/Publisher***

The headline is jumping the gun just a bit—I’m writing this early because I’ll be gone over the weekend, and on Sunday evening when I return, it will be time to send out the newsletter.

*UPDATE: I was so exhausted when I returned yesterday that I didn’t send this out. So, it’s a day late. Now, back to what I wrote earlier.*

I’m happy to report, though, that I’ve completed all the revisions to *Dark Mirror* (for this time around).

I’m now going through the manuscript to ferret out my favorite—and therefore often overused—words and phrases. It’s a little embarrassing to see how often I fall back on them. But I often told my English students to allow themselves to write badly, just to get their thoughts onto the paper. After all, you can’t revise what’s not there.

I will send the manuscript to my editor/publisher before the end of September. After that, my husband and I will take off to spend two weeks in Italy. Pictures next month, I promise!

**Coming April 3-5, 2025:**

**The Las Vegas Writers Conference!**



I'm so excited that the conference will be in-person this year. The Henderson Writers Group sponsors this conference, and organizers have assembled a great line-up of presenters, panelists, editors and agents. Early bird registration is open until November 30, and can save you \$150.

Make a plan to attend. I'll be there. Hope to see you! Here's the website:

<https://lasvegaswritersconference.com/>

## **Where to Find Me**

As I mentioned last month, I scheduled no events for August, September, or October. That's partly so I could finish *Dark Mirror* and partly so I can get ready to vacation in Italy with my dear friends of 50+ years.

However, I did take some time to have a bit of fun at our community's 1950s ice cream social. Here my husband Eddie and I pose in our costumes, ready to rock.



I will be active in November and December, so you can mark your calendars—maybe for some holiday shopping. Nothing says *Buon Natale* like a nice murder!

**Saturday November 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Summerlin Book Festival**, Las Vegas, Mountainview Presbyterian Church, 8601 Del Webb Blvd. This is a multi-author event, featuring over 100 book titles in multiple genres. Free admission. Raffle. Watch for more details.

**Friday December 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.: The Coffee Class**, Henderson NV (Coffee House Tours), 709 E. Horizon Drive Suite 100.

### **The Inside Scoop: And the Cat Was Just Sitting There**

Zee has a cat. I didn't plan for that; it's such a mystery story cliché. But when I wrote the first scene for *Knife Edge* so many years ago, there she was, making herself at home as if it was a foregone conclusion. She even told me her name, Candy, and described herself, an orange-and-cream striped tiger.

If you've read *Knife Edge*, you know the cat is no longer in that first scene, but she's firmly entrenched in Zee's life. She even has a bigger role in *Dark Mirror*.

Candy's appearance is an example of what writers call pantsing—writing by the seat of your pants, as opposed to plotting—mapping it all out ahead of time.

Pantsing is fun. An idea drops into my mind and I follow it to see where it leads. However, it's definitely not the most efficient way to write.

I was definitely a pantser that first time around, but I'm slowly but surely moving toward the plotter end of the spectrum. I'm finding out that plotting still leaves room for the pantser inspiration to strike.

## **The Great Pastry Hunt**

### **Oatmeal-Plus Cookies**



These are not strictly pastry, but in book two, Zee makes a resolution to eat a healthier diet, so I offer these delicious and (somewhat) nourishing cookies that I bake from scratch. They are hearty, satisfying, and for me, mostly guilt-free. The following is just one version. That's the beauty of this. You can add anything you want to it.

I start with a traditional oatmeal cookie recipe and then boost it with ground almonds in place of some of the flour. I add chopped pecans for extra protein and crunch. Then, I add dark chocolate chips, which contribute richness without being overly sweet. And finally, I mix in butterscotch chips. These balance everything with complex caramel-like flavors of toffee and butter and maybe just a tinge of molasses.

I bake these cookies in an oblong pan, so the bars come out thick and chewy. Yum!

If I've tickled your taste buds, you can have the recipe. Just email me at [terri@terrimaue.com](mailto:terri@terrimaue.com).

Next month, I hope to sing the praises of wonderful Italian pastries. (Zee will make exceptions to her new eating plan—research, you know.)

Thanks for reading! See you in October!

*(And that one will definitely be late because of our travel.)*