

Through the Power of Words
November 2025 Terri Maue Newsletter

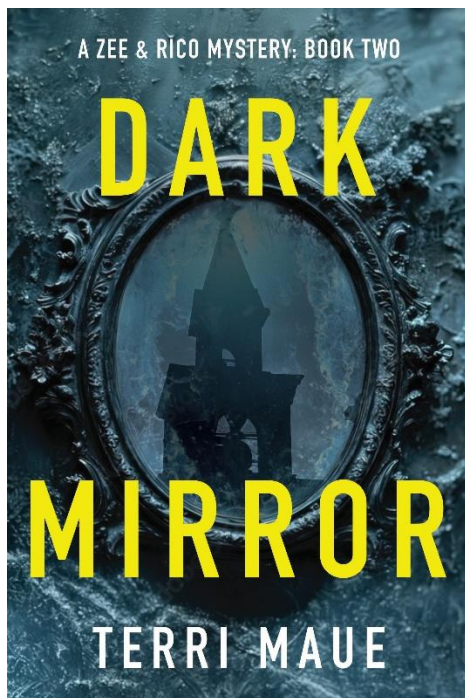


*“The true alchemists do not change lead into gold; they change the world into words.”**

--William H. Gass, American novelist

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Dark Mirror Release Date: January 14, 2026



It's official! The second Zee & Rico mystery will be released on January 14, 2026. In this one, Zee engages with another cast of startling characters as she delves into secrets and lies and the depths of the human heart.

I'm excited all over again. After all the hoopla of the holidays, January is the perfect time to settle down with a good murder. ***Dark Mirror* is available to pre-order now from Amazon (ebook only) and Barnes & Noble online (print and ebook).**

Out & About

I had a great time at the Las Vegas Book Festival. Much gratitude to Sin City Writers for giving me the opportunity to promote my book. Although I never sat down once during my two-hour stint at the Sin City booth, I did manage to get a photo with one of many happy purchasers of *Knife Edge*.



I also had the opportunity to speak to book club members at Avamere Senior Center, as November's *Meet the Local Author*. What a fun group of folks! Here's the happy winner of the door prize.



Where to Find Me

In December? At home! Baking cookies, sending out Christmas cards, hanging up the mistletoe, and giving thanks for another year of drinking deeply of the joys and sorrows of life.



The Inside Scoop:

Sometimes my mind just wants to wander. Maybe my muse needs a day off.

Recently, I got to thinking about how much easier it is now to type than when I first learned on a good old manual typewriter 60 or so years ago. Welcome down my rabbit hole.

[For reference, the image above is a fair representation of the typewriter I learned on, one summer back in the early 1960s.]

Do you know the reason for the QWERTY keyboard arrangement? It had to do with mechanics. Early typewriters worked by means of rods, each with a letter stamped on the end (actually two, lower and upper case). The rods nested in a fan shape, and in the interest of limited space, were packed closely together. When a key was struck, the rod flew up from its place and hit the inked ribbon before landing on the paper. Someone figured out that this arrangement of letters provided the smallest opportunity for the rods to get tangled with each other when the keys were struck.

Typists like me had to learn the best rhythm for hitting the keys, to type quickly but not get the rods stuck. We were helped by a keyboard with an incline that felt like Mt. Everest and required significant force to strike the keys! Even given that impediment, a skilled typist—which I became—could strike the keys fast enough to jam the rods if they were not careful.

The QWERTY arrangement has persisted to this day, for the most part, even though the mechanical means have long since disappeared, along with ribbons, manual carriage returns, and eraser fluid. My old fingers are grateful for all those improvements. But I have to smile every time I watch an old movie or TV show and see those secretaries tapping away.

The Great Pastry Hunt: Strudel



Servatti's Cincinnati OH

This German bakery offers so many delicious treats, it's hard to choose which to try! On my summer trip to Cincinnati, I settled on strudel, then couldn't decide on apple or cherry. So, I got both!

In the photo, the nearer slice is apple; the farther one, cherry. I taste the pastry first. Flaky, buttery, brushed with a light sweet glaze.

Next I sample the fillings. At first bite, the fruit flavor floods my mouth. Crisp juicy apples. Tongue-tingling tart cherries. My taste buds sing in exaltation.

Both strudels offer a nice balance of crust to filling. A treat that's good to the last *yum!*

I'm still researching bakery goods for Zee to eat. As you can tell, I take this job seriously! Email your suggestions to terri@terrimaue.com. Maybe your choice will be featured in Book Three!

Thanks for reading!

See you in December!

I know people's lives change, and I don't want to bother you. If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please email me at terri@terrimaue.com and I will unsubscribe you.

* I saw this in the Sin City Writers newsletter of Sept 15 2025