

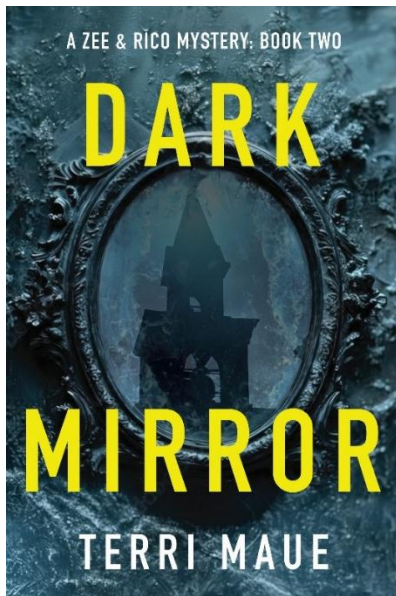
**Through the Power of Words**  
**December 2025 Terri Maue Newsletter**



*“England and America are two countries separated by a common language.”*      *George Bernard Shaw*

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***Dark Mirror Release Date: January 14, 2026***



I'm so excited! The second Zee & Rico mystery will be released in just about a month. In this one, Zee investigates a volatile anti-religion group that may be the hiding place of a killer.

*Dark Mirror* is available to pre-order now. Pre-orders help authors gain visibility during the all-important release week, so if you are already planning to purchase the book, please consider pre-ordering now. If you are a library patron, please request it from your local public library. Then settle back on a cold January night, with a comfy blanket, a cup of tea, and a murder.

## Out & About

So much fun at the Summerlin Book Fair last month! One thing I like about book fairs is the camaraderie among authors. Here my table-mate, Susan Johnson, and I are supporting each other. She's promoting *Knife Edge*, and I'm showing off her book, *Some Dreams Are Worth Keeping, A Memoir of My Bipolar Journey*.



And another thing I love is meeting readers! Here I am with a happy purchaser of *Knife Edge*.



## Where to Find Me

In December, I'll be 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. Then in January, it's back to the author's life and celebrating the launch of *Dark Mirror*.

**January 24, the Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, Authors & Artists Fair.**

**10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** I will be signing *Dark Mirror* and *Knife Edge* at my own table in the theatre lobby.

**2:30-3:20 p.m.** I will present a workshop, *Getting From Yawn to Yikes! Tension & Pacing in Storytelling*. Join me for a fun, interactive time in the Blau Theatre.

**3:30-4:30 p.m.** I'll be signing *Dark Mirror* and *Knife Edge*, this time with my colleagues at the Sin City Writers Table.

### **The Inside Scoop:**

You know I love to play with words, right? Part of the joy I take in writing is finding just exactly the right word I'm looking for, to convey the idea or feeling I want the reader to experience. However, every once in a while, I run across a word that's just so much fun that I have to keep it, even if I never use it in a book. In this season of giving, I'm sharing a few as my gift to you.

The words below are all legitimate, dictionary-certified. See if you can guess the correct meaning. Answers at the end of the newsletter. Have fun!

*Bumfuzzle*: **a)** noun: hair on your backside; **b)** verb: to walk drunkenly; **c)** verb: to perplex or fluster

*Snickersnee*: **a)** verb: to trick or prank; **b)** noun: a large knife; **c)** noun: little sister

*Collywobbles*: **a)** noun: staggering gait; **b)** noun: anxious, unsettled feeling; **c)** noun: a 17<sup>th</sup> century board game

*Taradiddle*: **a)** noun: pretentious nonsense; **b)** verb: to procrastinate; **c)** verb: to putter in a garden

### **The Great Pastry Hunt: A Year in Review and a Shout-Out**

In case you've forgotten, here's a list of the bakery goodies featured this year. And a shout-out to my neighbor Brooke, whose 2024 recommendation for apple-walnut strudel from Café du Val, ended up as a treat for Zee in *Dark Mirror*.

- January – Apple Tart from Trader Joe's, Las Vegas
- February – no goodies that month; I had gall bladder surgery 😞
- March – Chocolate Raspberry Pop Tart from The Coffee Class, Las Vegas
- April – Raspberry and Almond Rugula from The Bagel Cafe, Las Vegas
- May – Apple Fritter from Pink Box Doughnuts, Las Vegas
- June – Buttery Streusel Nazook from WinCo Bakery, Las Vegas
- July – Blueberry Scone from the Dam Roast House, from Boulder City
- August – Delizza Macarons from a friend
- September – Fruit Tart from The Italian Experience, Cincinnati
- October – Croissants: almond, pistachio, glazed—all from Cincinnati bakeries
- November – Apple and Cherry Strudels from Servatti's Bakery, Cincinnati

Okay, now I'm hungry.

And the winner is ... Fruit Tart from The Italian Experience, Cincinnati



This was SO-O-O good, I can't wait to go back and eat another one! Thanks to my long-time friends, Ray and Carol, for taking me there!

I'm still researching bakery goods for Zee to eat. Email your suggestions to [terri@terrimaue.com](mailto:terri@terrimaue.com). Maybe your choice will be featured in Book Three!

Thanks for reading!

See you in January! Happy New Year!

\* Answers to the quiz

*Bumfuzzle* **c)** is a verb meaning “to confuse, perplex or fluster.” It may be a variation on *dumfound*.

Sample Sentence: *This year’s corn maze was so complex, it bumfuzzled visitors.*

*Snickersnee* **b)** This noun means “a large knife” but can also refer to a knife fight. It ultimately derives from the Dutch words *steken* (“to thrust”) and *snijden* (“to cut”).

Sample Sentence: *Conventional wisdom suggests one should not bring a snickersnee to a gun battle.*

*Collywobbles* **b)** which dates back to the 1820s, refers to stomach pain or anxiety. A combination of *colic* and *wobble*, it perfectly captures that unsettled feeling we all know.

Sample Sentence: *Speaking in front of a crowd gave Jane collywobbles.*

*Taradiddle* **a)** This word dates back to 1796 and describes pretentious nonsense or, sometimes, a petty lie. Nobody is sure how or even when this word came into being—a linguistic mystery!

Sample Sentence: *You can’t blame the exhausted mom for telling her toddler the park was closed today—a forgivable taradiddle.*

These teasers courtesy of the website:

[https://www.mentalfloss.com/language/words/real-words-that-sound-fake?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://www.mentalfloss.com/language/words/real-words-that-sound-fake?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)

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