

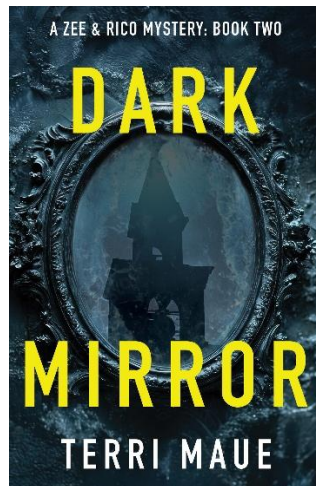
**Through the Power of Words**  
**February 2026 Terri Maue Newsletter**



*Writing a novel is kind of like scaling Mt. Everest and passing by your own bones on the way. -- Karen Russell, American novelist*



**Happy Birthday to me and *Dark Mirror*!**



February is my birthday month, and I'm celebrating the birth of *Dark Mirror* too. You're invited to my launch/birthday party at Copper Cat Books, Saturday February 21, noon-3 pm. There'll be cake, of course, a game, prizes—just lots of fun at this delightful bookstore. And I'll be sporting a new birthday t-shirt. Hint: It has a mirror on it. I hope to see you there!

## Great Day at the Clark County Library Authors & Artists Fair



I am grateful to Julie Okabayashi for organizing this event. I took home a souvenir too.



### Where to Find Me

**February 21, noon-3 pm, Copper Cat Bookstore, 1570 Horizon Ridge Pkwy, Henderson:** *Dark Mirror* launch party & Terri's birthday party. Come for food, fun, prizes, and of course, signed copies of *Dark Mirror* and *Knife Edge*.

**March 1: Dime Grinds zoom meeting, 2-4 pm.** I'll be a guest author along with Rebecca Morrison and K.P. Davis. Moderated by Tonya Todd, these interactive

author-audience conversations are always interesting and fun! Go to zoom.com and use meeting ID 365 243 4388.

**April 23-25: The Las Vegas Writers Conference, Sam's Town Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas.** I'll be volunteering during all three days. There'll be workshops on writing, marketing, and publishing, networking opportunities, a raffle, one-on-one sessions with agents and editors, and of course a bookstore where you can get signed copies of *Knife Edge* and *Dark Mirror*. Register now at the website: <https://lasvegaswritersconference.com/>

### **The Inside Scoop:**

Writers are always told to 'write what you know.' Now that's good advice, because writing about what you've actually experienced gives your words authenticity, not to mention lots of lovely details that will bring life to your story.

So, how do I write about murder when—thankfully—I've had no experience with it. Well, that's not true. Unfortunately in our world, the daily news exposes everyone to all kinds of violence, including murder. Although I have to say here that I couldn't write about it if it happened to someone I know. I'd be too close.

But from a distance, death is fascinating to many of us. It's going to happen to all of us, and none of us knows what it's going to be like. So maybe I write about it because it's facing the thing I'm afraid of. It's kind of like knowing the iron is hot and feeling that compulsion to touch it, anyway. Face the fear, do the scary thing, and take away its power.

And of course, in the world of the mystery writer, good always (or most often) wins, the guilty are punished, and justice is restored. That's probably what I like best about mysteries. If it all works, I get to spend time in an interesting place, with interesting people doing interesting things, in a world where justice prevails, although not without a fight.

Not a bad gig.

### **The Great Pastry Hunt: Coconut Roll**

Delices Gourmands French Bakery in Las Vegas.



I spent most of the last month dealing with dental issues and had little interest in eating much at all. So in honor of *Dark Mirror*, I'm sharing a pastry that made it into the book.

This spiral-fashioned roll is like a coconut cream pie I can eat out of my hand. Its crusty, almost caramelized outer layer yields to soft, slightly sweet inner layers of pastry. Cradled in the center is a vanilla-coconut, pudding-like filling, cool and silky on the tongue. The 'frosting' pièce de résistance is actually a thin sugar crust, lavishly garnished with shaved, lightly sweetened coconut.

And if that's not enough to make your mouth water, here's an excerpt from the scene between Zee and Rico.

*Later, as she licked vanilla coconut custard from his lips, his neck, and his chest, she had to acknowledge there was something to be said for delayed gratification: Julio's pastry had never tasted better.*

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 a future book!

Thanks for reading!

See you in March!

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](mailto:terri@terrimaue.com) and I will unsubscribe you.