

Through the Power of Words

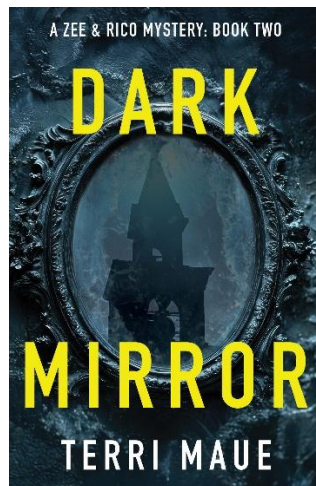
June 2026 Terri Maue Newsletter



*“The time during which [a] problem is unresolved is life, too.” – Melissa Kirsch,
‘Unfinished Business’ NYT*

”””””

*Can **Dark Mirror** win an Edgar?*



The Edgar Awards, named for Edgar Allen Poe, are given out once a year by the Mystery Writers of America. An Edgar is prestigious. The competition is tough. But I’m going for it. I appreciate my publisher, Epicenter, for being willing to do the paperwork and send copies of the book to the judges.

The winners are announced in January, near Poe’s birthday. I’ll keep you posted!

Reminder: Ratings and reviews are crucial to help bring *Dark Mirror* to the attention of more readers. Right now, the book has a 4.7 star rating and three reviews. Some astronomical number of books are released every day. If you enjoyed *Dark Mirror*, please rate and review it.

Thanks!

What I've Been Up To

On May 30, I joined authors Iris Hattersley and Sherry Hobbs at Mad Red Books. We had lots of great conversations with readers, and I made a few new friends!



Many thanks to the fine folks at Mad Red Books!

Where to Find Me Next

I'm pleased to say that I've been booked as a guest on the MythBehaving podcast. I'll be interviewed on Sunday July 12. I'm not sure when the podcast will be available, but I'll be sure to let you know.

I met the podcaster RobRoy McCandless at the Las Vegas Writers Conference. He gave a workshop on steampunk, which if you don't know—and I didn't—is a sub-genre of science fiction/fantasy. The stories posit an alternative history set in Victorian times but featuring imaginative, often complex machinery operated by cogs and gears, and powered by steam.

Knife Edge and *Dark Mirror* are not in this genre, but they do share one quality of steampunk, willingness to challenge authority and push back against society. I don't know at this point what I'll be asked, but it's sure to be an interesting interview. Stay tuned!

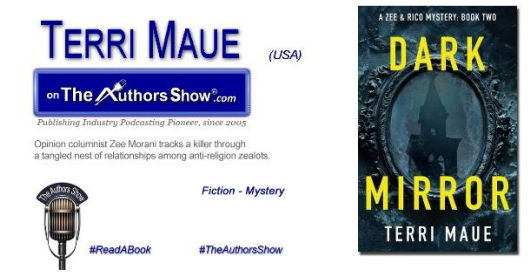
Replays of my earlier appearances on podcasts are still available.

April 16, 1 p.m.: *A Bookish Moment with Terri Maue | Psychic Mysteries, Spiritual Secrets, and Small-Town Suspense.* This is a 30-minute YouTube livestream interview series, with a Q&A opportunity for listeners. Here's the zoom link. <https://www.youtube.com/live/4Y6lqnRQPk8>



The Authors Show:

<https://terrimaue.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Terri-Maue-Final.mp3>



The Inside Scoop:

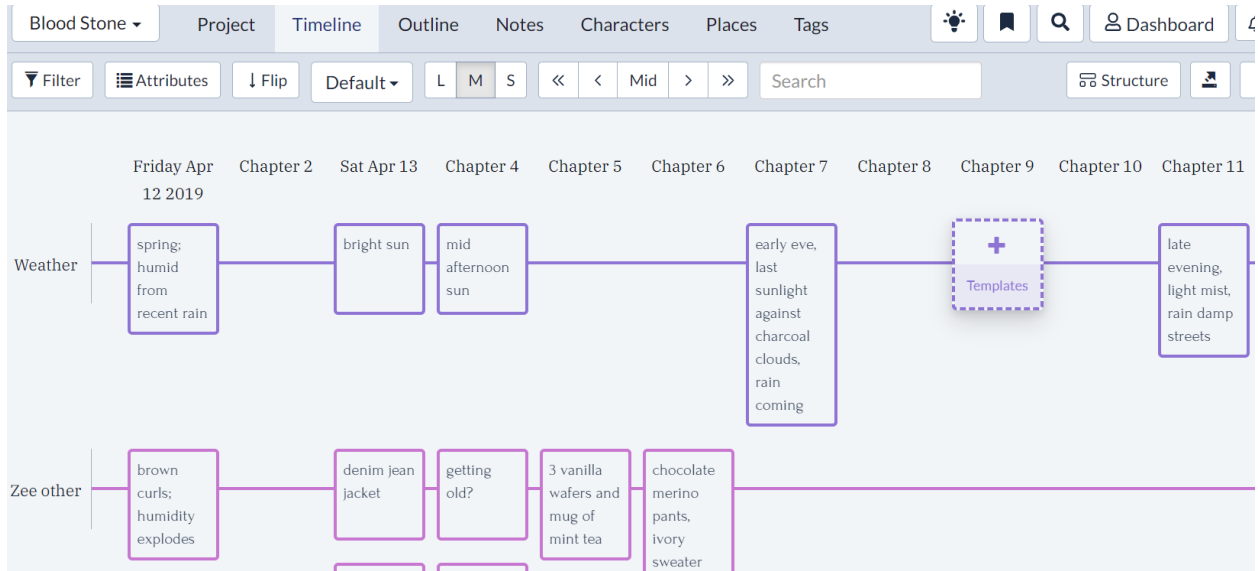
People often ask me how I keep track of all the details in a book. I admit, it's a daunting prospect. Not just the plotlines—those are hard enough, but the minutiae that are also important: What day is it? What are people wearing? What's the weather? Where are we physically? Is this the first time or have we been here before?

It can eat up tons of time to scan back through the draft, trying to double-check that I'm not contradicting myself. (She was wearing jeans and a t-shirt, but somehow now she's wearing slacks and a sweater?)

I'm a big believer in outlines, whether they're formal—with the Roman numerals and the letters and indents, etc.—or simple scribbles on a piece of scratch paper—that's more my style. But a book is a long and complicated thing, and outlines can quickly become unwieldy.

Yet, I slogged along until I discovered a program that actually creates an easy-to-follow diagram of my novel in progress. It's called Plottr (no e).

(No spoiler alert needed here. What I'm showing you below does not reveal any useful information on the plot.)



How it works is that, as I write the book, I simply add title blocks that describe what happens. If I need to make changes, as I did last week, I can revise what's in the block or even move it to another chapter. If I'm not sure which chapter contains the information I need to change, it's easy to consult the diagram to find it, then open that chapter in the draft of the book, and make the alterations.

I can also make a note of the brilliant idea that just occurred to me, as well as crucial information—think clues—that didn't fit in the place I originally planned. I do that by creating a new block in a different color, so it stands out to remind me.

Early drafts are messy. That's to be expected. But good tools can free up energy that is much more enjoyably spent exploring new adventures for Zee, Rico, Fontina, Shelby, Candy, and all the rest of the inhabitants of not-so-sleepy Valerian.

The Great Pastry Hunt: Lemon-Thyme Shortbread



It's 105 outside, time to bake cookies!

My husband found this shortbread reference on the wrapper of a thyme plant. Intrigued, I decided to try it. Because what else am I going to do on a hot afternoon in the desert?

The results, I must say, were amazing!

As I bit into the tender shortbread, the fragrance of thyme teased my nostrils. I love that aroma, sweet, savory, and fresh. Then lemon announced itself, boldly assertive, its tang dominating my mouth. I enjoyed it, but wondered if I would be able to taste any more of the influence of thyme. Was that early seductive hint all I would get?

The second bite erased my fears. It was as if my taste buds had absorbed the initial powerful impact of lemon, switched off a few cells, and were now enabled to delve more deeply into more subtle flavors. The herb emerged as a nuanced effect, slightly earthy, a perfect complement to anchor the bright, tart citrus.

Once again, I wondered at thyme's ability to 'round out' whatever I cook with it. In this case, it moderates both the lemon and the sweet buttery richness of the shortbread. As I consumed a third bite and a fourth, the thyme seemed to linger, delicately infusing the stronger flavors.

These cookies look plain, but don't let that fool you. This is a treat to eat slowly, savoring how the flavors change. Let the crumbs play across your tongue. It's time (see what I did there 😊) well spent!

Email me if you want the recipe (terri@terrimaue.com). Chopping fresh thyme is labor-intensive, so make a double batch. I got 12 two-inch by three-inch bars.

I'm still researching bakery goods for Zee to eat. If you have a favorite recipe you'd like me to try, send it along! Email your suggestions to terri@terrimaue.com. Maybe your choice will be featured in a future book!

Thanks for reading!

See you in July!

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.