Through the Power of Words

August 2026 Terri Maue Newsletter

"Love is being stupid together."
- French poet and philosopher Paul Valéry

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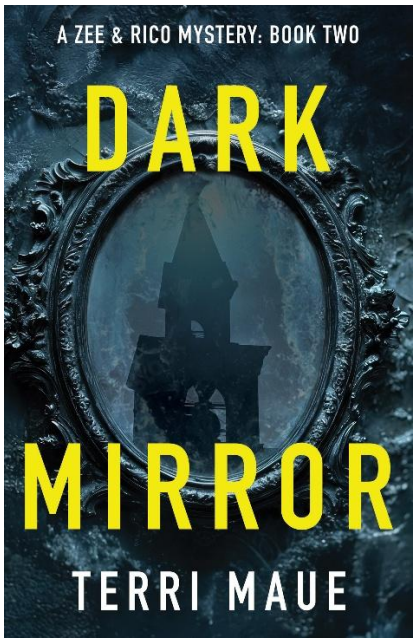
Another 5-Star Rating for *Dark Mirror*!



I have exciting news! Dark Mirror has been awarded 5 Stars by Reader Views, a respected literary awards program supporting independent authors since 2005. I love 5 Stars, but the best part was the accompanying editorial review. I cried when I read it. Here's part:

Dark Mirror works as both a murder mystery and a story about identity. The investigation asks who killed Bette, but the deeper question is how people rebuild themselves after their old beliefs, relationships, and assumptions collapse. The novel suggests that real freedom requires more than escaping the people who hurt us. It requires having the courage to face the reflection in the mirror and decide what kind of person we want to become.

Read the whole review here: https://readerviews.com/reviews/dark-mirror-maue/

This new rating joins the earlier 5-Star rating that *Dark Mirror* earned from Readers' Favorite, a well-respected, award-winning site.

Here's a portion of the review that accompanied the 5-Star rating:

The author builds suspense through a maze of red herrings, unreliable witnesses, and escalating physical threats. Dark Mirror delivers superb storytelling with fast-paced action that never sacrifices the emotional depth of the characters, and the story skillfully transitions from the investigation to Zee's vigil at her dying father's bedside to a prickly, evolving romance.

You can read the entire review here: https://readersfavorite.com/book-review/dark-mirror

Reminder: Ratings and reviews are crucial to help bring *Dark Mirror* to the attention of more readers. If you enjoyed *Dark Mirror*, please rate and review it.

Thanks!

What I've Been Up To

My MythBehaving interview on the Zee & Rico Mystery series is up!

Rob, Jenn, and I talked sacrificing to the technology god, characters who surprise us, and why my subconscious mind is a better writer than my conscious mind. Give it a listen. There's a one-minute commercial for a sci-fi book at the beginning, so don't get confused. Here are the links:

Podbean: https://www.podbean.com/eas/pb-7edk4-1b14281

Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/episode/25E1hTriOpb8cc54eJrqEB

Where to Find Me Next

August 26: Author's Choice blog This was a lot of fun. Jim Jackson starts the post with three statements from the author. Two are true and one is a lie. Check it out and see if you can guess correctly. In the rest of the interview, I talk about the most effective strategy for me when I encounter writer's block, how I feel about social media, how I recognize when I have the right name for a character, and more.

Here's the link: https://jamesmjackson.com/blog2/2026-08/ac-terri-maue

Bold Authors Spotlight: I had the chance to join four other authors to talk about my books. In my six-minute segment, I introduce the Zee & Rico series and share the story of the inspiration for the plot of *Dark Mirror*. I also speak briefly about

one of the big challenges in writing a book about the sensitive topic of religion. Here's the link: https://youtu.be/tvV52sLEjCQ (My segment begins about 40:33.)

The Bold Authors Network welcomes all writers in any genre at any stage of their careers. We focus mainly on marketing strategies and supporting each other. If you are interested, email me at terri@terrimaue.com

The Inside Scoop:

My deep-critique partner Tonya and I have been working together for more than five years. Recently, Tonya suggested we could present a workshop on critique partners. I loved the idea. In a brainstorming session, we decided that to show how we work together, we would share actual critique comments with participants. These run the gamut from 'I ***love*** this' to 'Don't hate me but …'

Later, thinking about what I would most like participants to understand, I realized that our partnership works particularly because we are sincerely and deeply dedicated to helping each other do the best writing possible. In other words, it's always about the work. We are critiquing what's on the page, not who put it there.

(That said, of course, it's a human being who just poured out her heart in words. So we also have to treat each other with grace, kindness, and respect.)

It's the love of the written word that holds us together. (And oftentimes, waiting a day or two for the sting to ease.) It's the grace to be stupid, to write drek and let someone else see it. It's also the grace to muddle around while critiquing when we don't know what exactly the problem is, only that there is a problem.

A partner like that is a great gift. I am lucky and grateful.

The Great Pastry Hunt: Lemon Squares

I'm on a roll here, baking in this blistering hot weather. (Possibly, I don't want to go out in 110-plus degree heat.)

Lemon is one of my favorite flavors in the summer. It's coolly refreshing, and the tart tang cuts through the heaviness of stifling heat.

The first bite swamps my taste bud with a flood of bright, citrusy lemon. I savor it as it melts in my mouth, kissed by the sweet hint of powdered sugar. Slowly those tastes fade, and the buttery, rich cookie base has its turn in the spotlight. It's dense but tender. It cleanses my palate, and I'm ready for the next delicious bite.

I keep these cookies in the refrigerator. Eating them cold just adds to the delight!

Email me (terri@terrimaue.com) if you'd like the recipe.

I'm still researching bakery goods for Zee. If you have a bakery suggestion or 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 September!

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.