Through the Power of Words

September 2026 Terri Maue Newsletter

"A word to the unwise. / Torch every book. / Char every page.
Burn every word to ash. / Ideas are incombustible.
And therein lies your real fear."
— Ellen Hopkins, New York Times bestselling author

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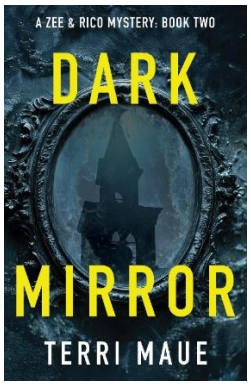
This is exciting!

Recently, a writer friend contacted me to tell me his daughter planned to use *Dark Mirror* for her 7th grade reading class. I am beyond thrilled that young people will be discussing what the Reader Views reviewer termed "a murder mystery about belief, trauma, and the stories people create about themselves, less about finding a single obvious villain and more about untangling layers of fear, loyalty, obsession, and guilt." As the reviewer concludes, "truth is rarely as clean as people want it to be."



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

And lest you think *Knife Edge* has retired to the rocking chair, recently a reader contacted me to ask where to purchase the book in the UK. I didn't know, but to my delight, I discovered several options:

https://www.waterstones.com
https://www.abebooks.co.uk
https://uk.bookshop.org
https://www.bookdelivery.com
https://www.worldofbooks.com

Is that cool or what! As my sister said, I'm an international author!

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

Thanks!

What I've Been Up To

In this fun blog interview, Jim and I talked about, among other topics, how I get my characters' names, why I write mysteries, and what I think Zee might say to me if she showed up on my doorstep. (I think she'd be appreciative.) Check out my blog post: **https://jamesmjackson.com/blog2/2026-08/ac-terri-maue**

The Center for Creative Expression

I attended a sneak peek open house for Judi Moreo's new Center for Creative Expression. This is an incredible, warm, welcoming space for artists of all kinds. Judi will be offering classes and workshops, including a writing workshop from me on September 25. See Where to Find Me Next for details.

Photos left to right or top to bottom (depending on how this shows up on your screen): Judi and I in the foyer. Painter Jeff Varadi with his works (elephant above him, tiger, and train just to the right). Karen Corvan, who teaches an intriguing art form called Zentangles.

You can still catch my MythBehaving interview on the Zee & Rico Mystery series.

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

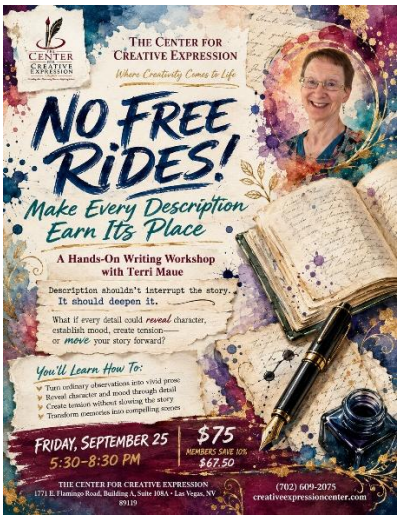
Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/episode/25E1hTriOpb8cc54eJrqEB

Bold Authors Spotlight: You can also find me participating in the Bold Authors Spotlight. 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

Where to Find Me Next

The next few weeks will be busy!



Friday, September 25, 5:30-8:30 p.m. No Free Rides! Make Description Earn Its Place: The Center for Creative Expression, 1771 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas. We've all read those books where a character enters a room and what follows is a detailed description that, at best, we hope is short. What if, instead, you could make description work for you so well that the reader would not be tempted to skip over it 'to get to the good part' of the story?

This is a fast-paced, hands-on workshop, with playful exercises that challenge imagination while showing how skillful descriptions create mood, illuminate character, reveal motivation—in short, move the story. Register at 702-609-2075.

Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The Las Vegas Book Festival: I'll be signing *Knife Edge* and *Dark Mirror* at a table I'm sharing with a new friend, Abby Auburn. Abby writes romantasy horror and dark rom com—sounds like fun! Stop by and say hello. Take advantage of special bundle pricing on the Zee & Rico mystery series at the largest literary event in Nevada.

Tentative: Saturday, October 24, 2-3:30 p.m. "Fantastic, Horrific, and Mysterious Women: A Panel on the Dominance of Female-Written Genre Novels" sponsored by Henderson Writers Group. I'm thrilled (no pun—well, maybe a little pun—intended) to be invited to represent the mystery genre on this multi-genre panel with Mia Heintzelman – Romance; Mercedes M. Yardley – Horror; Staci Wilson - Horror, Thriller, and Non-fiction; and Diana Fedorak - Science Fiction. Details are still being finalized. Watch social media for updates.

Tentative: Saturday, October 31, TBD: And maybe, possibly there will be a Halloween event at Copper Cat Books on the spooky day itself. Watch for more details.

The Inside Scoop:

On September 11, 2026, our nation marked the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It was day for many of us to pause and reflect on the freedoms we enjoy in this country, and the price paid on that day.

I in particular found myself thinking about the freedom to write a book like *Dark Mirror*, whose characters wrestle with the sensitive topic of religion. In some countries, I could not write such a book without great risk. I probably could not even think, much less give voice to, such radical, questioning ideas as my characters do.

I appreciate that in America, we have freedom of expression. I have the freedom to tell the stories that speak to me, just as people have the freedom to pick up my book or let it lie on the shelf. May we always enjoy such freedom.

The Great Pastry Hunt: Ste. Honoré Croissant

French Riviera Tropezienne French Bakery, Henderson

This looks almost too good to eat, but I am a professional. I begin by biting off a corner of the pastry, to experience it without the filling. The perfect crusty exterior yields to layers of buttery parchment that melt on my tongue. An excellent promise of what lies ahead.

Next, I taste the cream filling. It surprises my tongue with its almost fluffy texture, and my taste buds are delighted when this light filling releases a flood of rich, deep vanilla.

My third bite includes a drizzle of slightly nutty caramel glaze, which counterbalances the sweetness of the vanilla. A crunch from a scattering of either chopped nuts or bits of cinnamon adds a pleasant textural nuance.

If there is food in heaven, this Ste. Honoré croissant will certainly be on the table!

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 *Blood Stone*!

Thanks for reading!

See you in October!

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.