



June Newsletter:

May turned into one of those months where everything seemed to happen at once — book events, travel, cover experiments, and a few unexpected discoveries along the way. And did I mention my roof leaking and a spider infestation? Ugh. Now that I'm back in the office and able to catch my breath, I thought I'd share a little of what I've been doing, where I've been, and what's coming next.

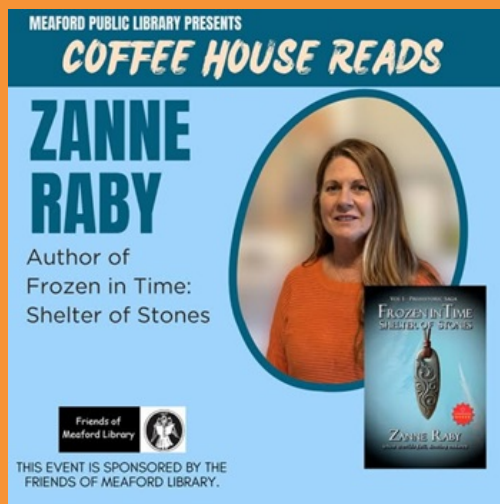
Happy Summer Solstice

Before calendars, the summer solstice — the longest day of the year — would have been a major marker in the lives of Stone Age people. It would certainly have been a time for celebration, and many ancient stone circles, standing stones, and passage tombs were aligned to mark the movement of the sun across the sky. I've never had the chance to visit Stonehenge, but on my trip to Jersey, I was fortunate enough to visit some of these ancient sites. Standing on the same ground as our ancestors, I thought of their desire to honour the seasons, and how their lives were bound to the rhythms of the heavens. I imagined Te'a and Eder, holding hands, standing amongst the weathered stones at dawn, watching the first light spark against the dark grey granite of the boulders, and knowing that the wheel of time had turned once more. To us, the solstice is just a date on a

calendar, but to our ancestors, it may have been a message forged in sunlight.



Book Talk at the Meaford Public Library



I had the pleasure of giving an author talk at the Meaford Public Library, where I spoke about *Frozen in Time: Shelter of Stones*, the prehistoric world of Te'a and the Izokina tribe. I had a great time sharing my experiences and the scenes behind the story with a fantastic group of readers.

One of the most encouraging parts of the event was hearing people respond to the book's cover. The librarians — and nearly everyone I spoke with — preferred the blue pendant cover. They felt it looked more distinctive, more professional, and more intriguing than the character-based mountain version.

Which leads me to...

Cover Survey!

Now I'd love to hear from you. I've been comparing cover styles as I continue working the cover for *Frozen in Time: Ice Angel*, the sequel to *Shelter of Stones*.

Which kind of cover draws you in more?

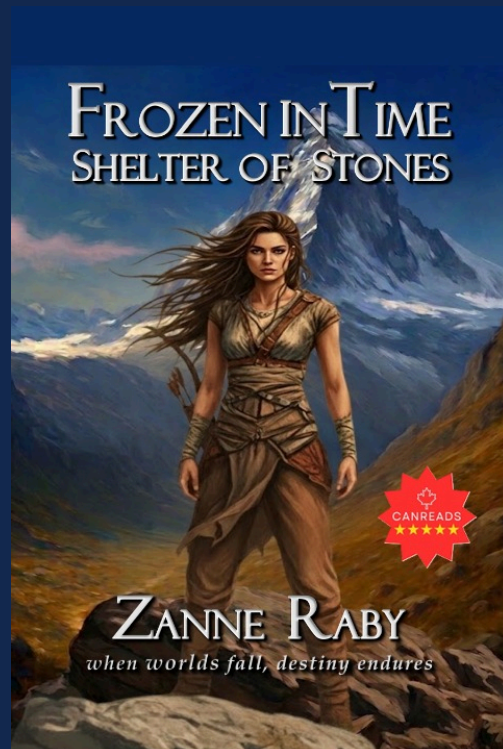
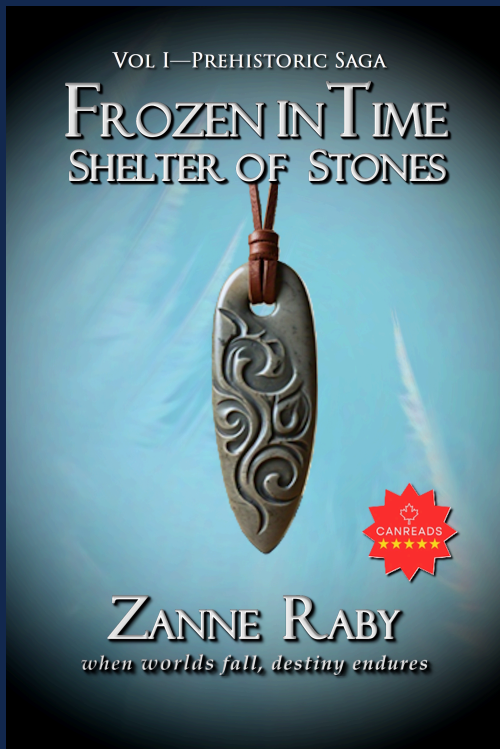
A symbolic, atmospheric cover — like the blue pendant version

A character-focused adventure cover — like the mountain version.

At my recent library talk, the blue cover was the clear favourite, but I'd love to know what readers think. Fill in this survey and three lucky respondents will win a free copy of the novel.

Or: Reply to me at zanne@zanneraby.com and tell me: blue pendant or mountain warrior? Or

Cover Survey



Road Trip to the Channel Islands!

This newsletter's a little more "condensed" than usual, because I just got back from a trip to Jersey, one of the Channel Islands. Jersey has a deep prehistoric record, including Neanderthal occupation and ancient ritual sites. It's also rich in World War Two history, including the Jersey War Tunnels and the Channel Islands Military Museum which were well worth the visit. Jersey was the perfect vacation destination for a person who wanders between the ancient past and the modern world. I'd like to share a video of my travels with you.

[Jersey Vacation](#)

If you found this interesting
SHARE IT!

Wishing you a month filled with fireflies, strawberries, and always the stars.

~Zanne

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