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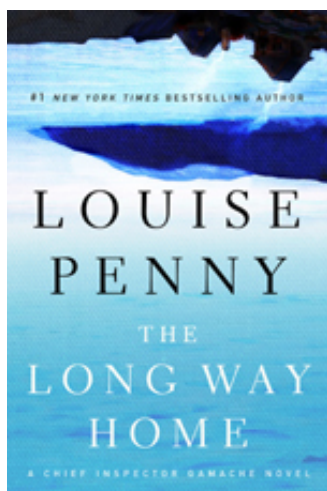


Louise Penny's April Newsletter

"There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole..."
- **The Balm in Gilead, A Spiritual**



THE LONG WAY HOME



Finally - I can show you the cover of THE LONG WAY HOME! Here it is -

I love this cover and, to add to my delight, it's actually a detail from a painting by one of my favorite artists. I wonder if any of you can name the artist and the title of the painting?

I know we have not made it at all easy for you - but the first person who can answer those questions will win a signed first edition hardcover of THE LONG WAY HOME, when it is published. Send your answers to: contact@louispenny.com Good luck!

I'll give you the answer, and the winners name, in the May newsletter.

Over on the [Facebook page](#) we had the fun of slowly revealing the cover over four days, using short video clips. And then, on the final day, the full image.

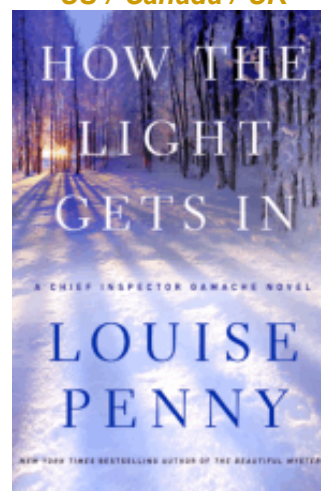
If you [click here](#) you can see that final video via YouTube. There's some sound to it, so can you make sure your volume is turned up?

The Long Way Home - about the book

And now I can also tell you something about THE LONG WAY HOME. (but not too much, I promise).

Happily retired in the village of Three Pines, Armand Gamache, former Chief Inspector of the Homicide with the Sûreté du Québec, has found a peace he'd only imagined possible. On warm summer mornings he sits on a bench holding a small book, THE BALM IN GILEAD, in his large hands. "There is a balm in Gilead," his neighbor Clara Morrow reads from the dust jacket, "to make the wounded whole."

How The Light Gets In
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While Gamache doesn't talk about his wounds and his balm, Clara tells him about hers. Peter, her artist husband, has failed to come home. Failed to show up as promised on the first anniversary of their separation. She wants Gamache's help to find him. Having finally found sanctuary, Gamache feels a near revulsion at the thought of leaving Three Pines. "There's power enough in Heaven," he finishes the quote as he contemplates the quiet village, "to cure a sin-sick soul." And then he gets up. And joins her.

Together with his former second-in-command, Jean-Guy Beauvoir, and Myrna Landers, they journey deeper and deeper into Quebec. And deeper and deeper into the soul of Peter Morrow. A man so desperate to recapture his fame as an artist, he would sell that soul. And may have. The journey takes them further and further from Three Pines, to the very mouth of the great St. Lawrence river. To an area so desolate, so damned, the first mariners called it The land God gave to Cain. And there they discover the terrible damage done by a sin-sick soul.

THE LONG WAY HOME will be published on August 26th. I am so excited about this book and can hardly wait for you to read it!! In fact, it can be pre-ordered from your local bookstore, or online, now. [Here's a link that might help.](#)

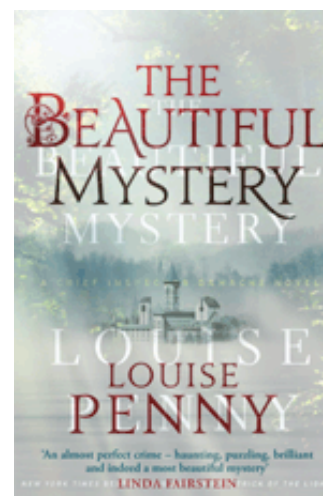
You have been such a supporter, such a champion, of Gamache and the books, and I am so deeply grateful. You've made my dream come true, changed my life. And brought Armand, Clara, Ruth, Gabri et all, alive.

Thank you for that!

And now I have another favour to ask. Can you perhaps continue to spread the word, to your friends and family? To complete strangers. In bookclubs, and libraries and social media. At parties.

It must appear I don't need the help now, but I do. I always need your help. There are so many people who have no idea the books, and Gamache, exist. It would be amazing to reach more and more readers. And not simply with the view to buying the books. I'm thrilled when people lend their copy to friends. When they take them out of libraries, or buy them second-hand. This keeps the characters alive, and that's honestly my main goal.

The fact is, Michael and I live in the country and our needs are small, and shrinking. I wonder if you are finding the same thing? As we age, we want to simplify. Health, friends, family, love, company, peace.



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Here's the order of the **Chief Inspector Gamache** books, from the first to the most recent:

STILL LIFE

A FATAL GRACE / DEAD COLD

THE CRUELEST MONTH

A RULE AGAINST MURDER / THE MURDER STONE

THE BRUTAL TELLING

BURY YOUR DEAD

A TRICK OF THE LIGHT

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY

HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN

Those are our desires. A roof over our heads and the essentials taken care of.

To everything there really is a season (except this year in Quebec, where there seems to be no Spring, and no end to Winter!). When I was younger the thought of a big home, or two, was very appealing. But not now. Travel is fun, but I also yearn for home and have very little taste for adventure anymore. I think, perhaps, I have channeled all that into the books - exploring, pushing the boundaries. Taking risks. But all from the comfort of my chair by the fire.

I find as I age I am far less physically courageous, but more emotionally courageous. At least, I hope so.

It has taken many decades, and lots of wounds (Michael and I call it 'frying pans in the face'), to realize I was searching in the wrong place. Looking outward instead inward. But finally I realized that what I sought was never all that far away.

Like so many others, I took the long way home.

Absolutely it would be amazing, phenomenal, to reach number one again. Wow - it would be incredible, joyous. I hate to tell you how much it would mean to me.

God knows, I would never eschew success and all that comes with it. It's absolutely astonishing and wonderful. It would be a terrible shame not to enjoy it and be filled with awe at my good fortune. But genuinely the greatest pleasure comes from hearing that you liked the book, that it touched you, that it meant something to you, that you lent it to friends and they also enjoyed it.

I honestly don't care how the book came into your hands. As long as it found its way there. A home of its own. With you.

March

March has been a fairly busy month, with the editor's notes to be worked on, and discussions with the publisher. And then, a highlight, a trip to Monterey, California and a great crime writers/readers conference called Left Coast Crime.

I was invited as the International Guest of Honor, and, to add to my excitement, HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN was nominated for Best Novel Set Outside the US.

Michael came with me, and we were joined by my brother Doug who flew in from Toronto. While I attended panels and met lots of wonderful readers and fellow writers, Michael and Doug explored the coast, going to Pebble Beach and Big Sur, which they described as almost a spiritual experience it was so glorious.

But I think I had the better time. Left Coast Crime was magnificent! So much fun, such great writers including my friends Deborah Crombie, Rhys Bowen, Jacqueline Winspear, Ann Cleeves. And other friends, Lesa Holstein, Janet Rudolph, Bill and Toby, Chris Aldrich and so many others.

At the end of the long days Michael, Doug and I would collapse in the room and share stories of our adventures.

My publisher, Andy Martin, of Minotaur Books, flew in from New York City to do a wonderful onstage feature interview with me (pictured above) - wish I could say it was hard work, but clearly it was simply loads of fun.

How The Light Gets In - wins Best Novel

And, as though it wasn't wonderful enough, HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN won for Best Novel Set Outside the US! At least, I think they called my name. Either way, I grabbed the trophy. Just try to take it away!!

loads of fun.

April

April is filled with some more work on the manuscript for THE LONG WAY HOME - always small edits

and reading and re-reading to try to catch all the tiny errors that might be left.

But the highlight will be Michael's birthday. He's turning 80!! He's fit and remains the happiest person in any room. And the light of my life. We have a big celebration planned.

Then, at the very end of the month, we're flying to New York for the Edgar Awards! As I might have mentioned (a few hundred times) HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN has been nominated for Best Novel. It is a shockingly, and dishearteningly, great field. But oh, wow, it sure feels wonderful to be in that company.

Thank you for this great and unexpected life. Thank you for cherishing Gamache et al, as I do. Thank you for inviting them, and me, into your home.

Thank you for your company.

Thank you for being as excited about THE LONG WAY HOME as I am and for all your support as we approach the publication date!

With warm embraces,

Louise

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