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Louise Penny's May Newsletter

"I cannot make my days longer, so I strive to make them better."
- Paul Theroux



Spring - finally! What an interminable winter we've had, though that does make the spring ridiculously welcome, and miraculous.

Hope this finds you well and thriving.

Edgar Awards



It's a hectic, thrilling time. Right now Michael and I are in New York City for the Edgar Awards. It's the first time one of my books has been shortlisted.

What a heady time! Cocktail parties (frankly I don't like them, I always feel out of place and a bit lost), dinners (more fun, a chance to really talk with people around us). Interviews and photo sessions.

Michael, amazingly, has managed to get into his formal dinner jacket and trousers. He looks very handsome!

I myself am wearing a party frock for the awards gala tonight made of Spanx and hope I can eat standing up. And no liquids after noon.

To be honest with you, while thrilling this is all a bit overwhelming. My Assistant Lise flew down with us, and my brother Doug (might have to elevate him to capitals as well) has joined us from Toronto. As well, my literary agent, Teresa Chris, flew in from London.

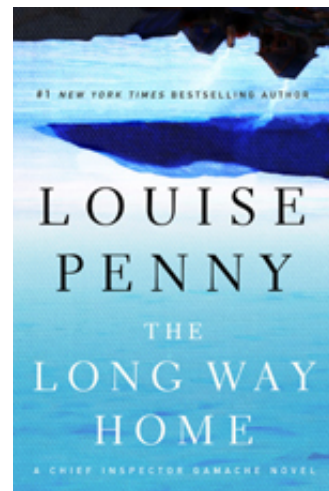
I better win.

Actually, everyone is very nice and they make it clear they're here for the party, and the celebration (and, I suspect, to fawn over the other nominees! That's my plan too).

Gamache Virtual Book Club

In other exciting news, we've started the Chief Inspector Gamache Virtual Book Club! The idea is to re-read (or read for the first time) the entire series, from the beginning. We started with STILL LIFE on April 21st. If you haven't joined yet, and want to, you can hop in

The Long Way Home US / Canada



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How The Light Gets In

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anytime. [Here's the link](#). We'd love to have you there.

The discussion of STILL LIFE, lead by the fabulous Lesa Holstine, has been riveting. People's thoughts on Agent Nichol, on Ruth. On the themes and setting.

We start the discussion of A FATAL GRACE/DEAD COLD, lead by my brilliant editor at Minotaur Books/St Martin's Press, Hope Dellon, on Monday, May 5th.

STILL LIFE - Amazon read in a lifetime

Totally coincidentally, and thrillingly, STILL LIFE has just been named by the Amazon editors as one of the 100 Mysteries to Read in a Lifetime! [Here's the link](#). It is a wonderful 'to be read' list. You can imagine how moving it is for me to have one of my books in that company.

Libris Award - Author of the year nomination

As well, in Canada the book industry annually hands out the Libris Award and this year I'm shortlisted for Author of the Year! [Here's the entire list of nominees in all categories](#). The winner will be announced in June.

Bishop's University - Honourary Doctorate of Law

I won't actually be able to be there because that very weekend I'll be at Bishop's University, in Lennoxville, Quebec, receiving an Honourary Doctorate of Law.

Can you believe it? I was astonished and became very emotional. Bishop's University is not far from us, and it also happens to be where my father attended after he was 'de-mobbed' at the end of the Second World War.

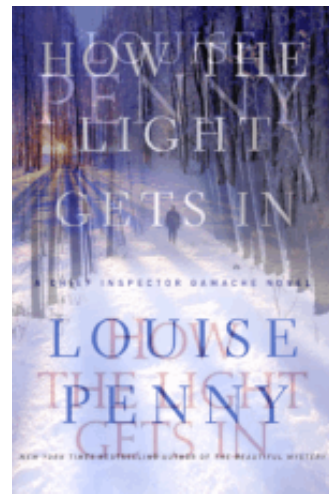
There are so many times I wish my parents had lived to see what has happened with my life. This spectacular good fortune. This joy. And now, this honorary degree.

I'm not yet sure what I'll be saying in my address to the students, except that it will be short. And perhaps touch on how unexpected life is. That no one, when I was their age, could ever have predicted this moment. Including, and perhaps especially, me.

There were dark periods in my life when I was sure the best was behind me. I was wrong. How important it is to never give up. Look what I'd have missed!

Michael and Trudy

Among the terrific events in April was just about the most wonderful event I can remember. Michael's 80th birthday!! We saw it coming, of course, saved up, and took seven close family members to the Jamaica Inn for the long Easter weekend. It was all about Michael - and I have rarely seen a person happier. Michael has a gift for bliss, and he was radiating it all weekend.



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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

THE LONG WAY HOME

This photograph is Michael with his sons Victor and Mike.



I know you might be wondering about our golden retriever Trudy. In March she was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Well, she's thriving! We decided, after much discussion and soul searching, to try chemo. The vets assured us dogs really do not suffer as people do. And sure enough, no side effects at all.

And now we are enjoying each and every day. We're so pleased and grateful she has seen another spring. All those luscious scents! And the mud. And the unspeakable things she finds to roll in.

She's another one who has a gift for bliss.

August 26th The Long Way Home

Well, we're getting closer and closer to the big launch!!! THE LONG WAY HOME, book 10 in the Chief Inspector Gamache series, is coming out on August 26th. You can pre-order if you like at your local bookstore or online. It's not a bad idea since the first edition hardcovers tend to go quite quickly. And if you use the library system (a great thing to support!) you might want to put your name in early.

I can hardly wait for you to read it! As you might know, it is set partly in Three Pines and partly in other areas of Quebec, as Gamache and Clara go in search of Clara's husband. Peter has failed to return on the first anniversary of their separation, as they'd agreed.

At first Clara is hurt. Then angry. And finally there is a growing unease. Surely Peter would at least call. Or write.

Instead there is silence.

And so Clara and Armand and a few others head deep and deeper into Quebec. And deep and deeper into the heart and troubled soul of Peter Morrow.

Advanced Reader Copies - The Long Way Home book giveaway

As a thank you for all your support, for spreading the word, for lending your books to others, for mentioning the books to friends and relatives and strangers in bookstores - I've managed to grab some Advanced Reader Copies (ARCs) of THE LONG WAY HOME. We'll be giving out two a month, up to and including July.

The winner will be chosen at random - to enter, just [click here](#), send an email and please put THE LONG WAY HOME in the subject line and include your full postal address in your message.

In last month's giveaway we asked you to name the artist and the title of the painting on US cover for The Long Way Home. The winner was *Maria Touet, from Massachusetts* who correctly named the artist and the painting name as **Clarence Gagnon's Evening on the North Shore**.

Please, please, keep spreading the word. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your help.

Well, off to get ready for the day. I'll tell you tomorrow on [Facebook](#) how it went at the Edgars.

Thank you for your company - and for all your good wishes. I carry them with me always.

With thanks,

Louise

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