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Louise Penny October Newsletter



"When I was a kid my parents moved a lot, but I always found them."

Rodney Dangerfield

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

Can't quite believe October is here already! And that THE NATURE OF THE BEAST has been released. Have you read it? Do you like it? Do you? Do you?

That's not needy at all.

What a time! THE NATURE OF THE BEAST debuted at #1 in Canada, and #3 on the New York Times list, behind two greats, Sue Grafton and Harper Lee. While I'd have loved to be #1, I have to admit, I am a fan of both women and it's an honour to be grouped with them.

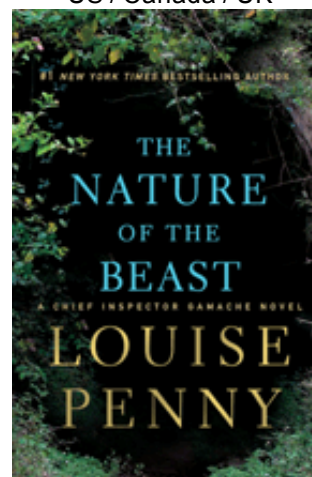
That said, next year....

But I jump ahead. How glorious to rest on the success of THE NATURE OF THE BEAST. Thanks to you, it sat on the NY Times list for 4 weeks!

- An Indie Next Pick for September

- A LibraryReads Pick for August

The Nature of the Beast
US / Canada / UK



Click if you wish to order

[Barnes & Noble.com](#)

[Amazon.com](#)

[Amazon.ca](#)

[Amazon.co.uk](#)

[iBookstore](#)

[ABA](#) American Booksellers Association

[\(IMBA\)](#) The Independent Mystery Booksellers Association

The Long Way Home
US / Canada / UK

- iBooks - Best of September

- Amazon - Best of the Month

THE REVIEWS

Here are just some of the reviews:

Wall Street Journal

"Atmospheric and deeply humane..."

PEOPLE

"Penny sustains her high-wire act, creating characters of remarkable depth in an exhilarating whodunit."

Irish Times

"...Louise Penny has crafted an immensely rich and satisfying traditional mystery world, tipping the hat to Agatha Christie, Josephine Tey and PD James, but with her own distinctive recipe: complex characters far removed from village stereotypes, ingenious plots, and a captivating lead detective in Gamache."

Salem Macknee, McClatchy Tribune wire

"Louise Penny is unsurpassed at building a sense of heart-stopping urgency."

Boston Globe

"A complex mystery..."

Cleveland Plain Dealer

"It's always a delight to spend time with the village denizens, whose levels of compassion, sarcasm and loyalty never waver."

Arrive Magazine

"A writer with wit and style who stands out from the crime fiction crowd."

AARP, The Magazine

"MODUS OPERANDI: All about morals as well as murder."

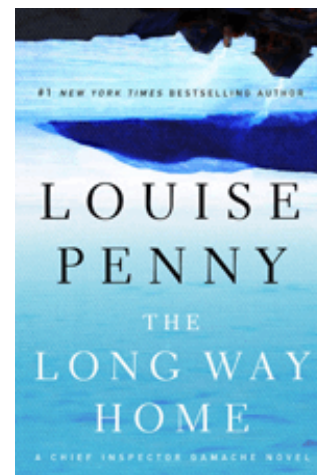
San Francisco Chronicle

"The author of 10 best-selling books featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache infuses her mysteries with the beauty, culture and mouthwatering cuisine of Quebec."

Margaret Cannon, The Globe and Mail

"A fine plot... this beast has teeth."

Richmond Times-Dispatch



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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

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

“...rich characterizations, arresting prose and thought-provoking questions of mercy, malice and the contradictions of the human race.”

★ **Kirkus Review (starred review)**

“Penny is an expert at pulling away the surface of her characters to expose their deeper—and often ugly—layers, always doing so with a direct but compassionate hand.”

★ **Publishers Weekly (starred review)**

“Stellar... engaging....”

★ **Library Journal (starred review)**

“A strong sense of place, a multilayered plot, and well-crafted characters combine for a thoughtful, intriguing tale.”

THE BOOK TOUR

I sure hope you feel the same way about this latest chapter in the lives of Armand, Clara, Gabri, Jean-Guy, Ruth et al. I long to talk to you about it.

That is one of the frustrations on book tour, I can't actually talk about the book without fear of giving something away. Still, it was a grand time. Absolutely packed houses, we opened in Seattle, where they were expecting 400 people, and more than 700 showed up.

And so it went, across the continent.

And this year we had a huge pre-launch event in Knowlton, Quebec and another in Vancouver, which was also a fundraiser for the great Early Onset Alzheimer support group, Paul's Club. Remarkable place, remarkable people.

Linda Lyall, who has designed and manages my website and this newsletter (though I write it, of course) has put together a video using photographs from the tour. [Click here](#) to view it via YouTube. This will give you an idea of what it was like. Enjoy!

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST - READING GROUP QUESTIONS

Reading a book is such a multi-layered experience, don't you find? Not just the story and characters and entering that entire world, but it is both a solitary past-time. Some precious “me” time. But it is often a way to connect with others. We talk about the books we are reading, with friends and family. Often with book clubs. Sometimes it's a way to turn strangers into friends. The alchemy of books. Each of the

Gamache books has a set of reading group questions, and with the help of my remarkable editor, Hope Dellon, we now have some suggested questions for THE NATURE OF THE BEAST. If you [click here](#), it will take you to them. But a warning, if you haven't yet read, or finished, the book, don't go there!

HOME

I'm home now, with Michael and Bishop. Recovering, and reveling in the success and the company of people I love. Friends and family. Including My Assistant Lise, who keeps this ship afloat!

We're also preparing for the move, from our home to a smaller place. All one level. Elevator from the underground parking. Right in the village.

Simple. Easy. Perfect.

To everything there really is a season. Michael and I have loved this place. It was our first home together. It's where we raised our puppies, and where we spread their ashes. It's where Armand and Clara and all the other characters were born. Where Three Pines was created.

The home has been good to us. Great to us. So many parties, so many visits from family and friends.

But it really is time to leave. Can't say I'm not sad, but really it's not the home that I will miss, it's what it represented. Our lives together. Stability. Traditions. Not just a past together, but a future.

This place without Michael would be meaningless. Best to make the move now.

I'm very lucky. Many people end up selling and packing up after they lose their partner. I can go through the books, the photographs, the furniture, all ripe with memories – and then sit beside Michael and we can do a jigsaw together. He isn't gone. I can grieve while he's still here. It's like a demi-loss. Taking it in bite-sized pieces.

It also helps that the new home will be wonderful. Kirk is helping with the renovation choices. Victor and his crew are working like fiends. Our neighbours in the condo are patient and understanding, with all the disruption.

We have a service in Quebec, covered by our taxes, called the CLSC (don't ask). They'll come and take blood samples. They'll give physio and if needed provide any special equipment.

And, with the huge help of My Assistant Lise (ma Lise), we now have a depth of caregivers, both for

relief in the day and for overnights. Am finding this a very good thing.

I realized that so much of my effort was going in to making sure Michael was happy and clean, and clothed, and shaved, and fed that he looks great and I'm beginning to look like something the dog threw up. If anyone came to the house and was asked to pick out the demented person, guess who they'd choose?

It was time for help.

And so now our lives have found a new rhythm. A new home. But we remain ourselves.

We hope to move at the beginning of November, before the snow flies (too much). Will tell you more about it when next I write.

THE KNOWLTON LITERARY FESTIVAL

Speaking of writing, am closing in on the end of the first draft for the next Gamache book. Wish me luck – as I near the end, the end seems to move further away. Argh.

Oh, I also wanted to tell you about this wonderful event in our new village – The Knowlton Literary Festival. [Click here](#) for more info. This yearly event is in mid-October and they have an incredible line-up. You can come and enjoy the literature, the culture and cuisine of Quebec, and there might even be some spectacular fall colour on the trees. I'm the Honourary Patron of the Knowlton Literary Festival, which essentially means I do nothing, but appear to have actually contributed – pretty much my sweet-spot. Love to see you there.

These are happy times for Michael and Bishop and me. And I hope, with all my heart, for you too.

Thank you for your company. Thank you for your support, of the books and of our lives. I know we are not alone. I hope you know the same thing.

With warm embraces,

Louise, Michael and Bishop

(To see the photographs used in this newsletter in a larger size [click here to see them via my website.](#))

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