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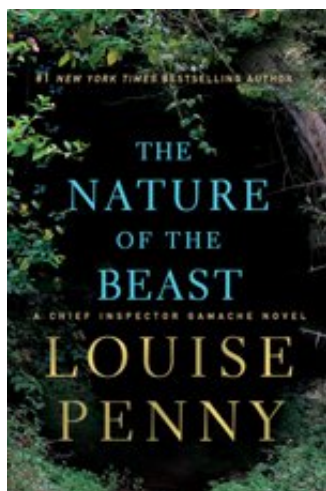
## Louise Penny

### September Newsletter



*"A book has got smell. A new book smells great. An old book smells even better. An old book smells like ancient Egypt."*  
**Ray Bradbury**

## THE NATURE OF THE BEAST



The Beast is released! And, dare I say it, I hope it's smelly!  
 (Love that Bradbury quote.)

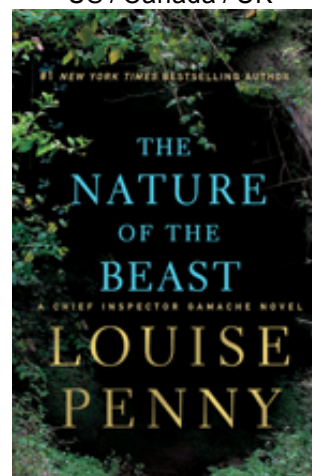
Oh, we have waited what seems a lifetime for THE NATURE OF THE BEAST to come out. It's the eleventh Chief Inspector Gamache novel, though of course he's no longer a Chief Inspector. No longer even in Sûreté.

Armand Gamache has retired to Three Pines, to recover from too much cruelty, too much sorrow, too much pain. And in the little village in the valley he has found peace, at last.

Until a boy with a fertile imagination, disappears. Young Laurent made a pest of himself in Three Pines by telling tall tales, some

## The Nature of the Beast

US / Canada / UK



August 25th  
 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

funny, some ludicrous, some unintentionally nasty, and all unbelievable.

But when Laurent disappears, Gamache and others have to face the possibility one of Laurent's stories was true.

And so begins a race to find the boy and find the truth. Along the way secrets are revealed about a number of the villagers, including, primarily the old poet, Ruth Zardo.

If you'd like to read the first chapter, or the book, [click here](#).

## THE BOOK TOUR

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST came out on August 25th, at a gala event in Seattle. The evening before I was in Vancouver at an event organized by the Vancouver Literary Festival, to help raise money for the Alzheimer's support group, Paul's Club. And before that we had our tradition local launch in Knowlton, organized by Danny and Lucy of Brome Lake Books. It was held at the Community Centre and featured skits from various Gamache books.

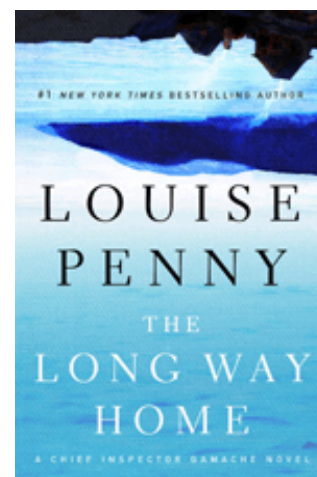
Fabulous, and very moving for me.



Since then I've been on the road, hitting different cities to celebrate the launch, from Vancouver to Seattle to San Francisco to Pittsburgh to Youngstown, Ohio, to Washington, DC.

And now I'm in North Carolina. Tonight we have an event at Meredith College, in the [Jones Auditorium](#), put on by the great people at Quail Ridge Books. It's a ticketed event, so best to get in touch with [Quail Ridge](#) first.

Most of the events have been sold out.



Click if you wish to order

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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

Last night I was at the barn in Fearington Village, North Carolina, the guest once again of the wonderful McIntyre's Books. Fabulous turnout. Standing Room Only.

And tomorrow night the tour ends in New York City with a huge [event at the flagship Barnes and Noble at Union Square](#). Everyone is welcome and it would be amazing to pack the place and end the tour with a bang!. [Click here](#) for more information via my website,

This has been an absolutely remarkable tour – meeting so many readers, being able to thank them for their support, of the books, but also of Michael and Bishop and me. I think you know how much that has meant to us.

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## REVIEWS

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST has flown off the shelves, thanks to incredible word-of-mouth and fabulous reviews, including:

### ★ **Kirkus Review (starred review)**

'...a mystery with global scope and consequences.... What makes this story most magical...is the perfect reminder of the dark side of human nature, but that side does not always win out. 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.'

### ★ **Library Journal (starred review)**

'... A strong sense of place, a multilayered plot, and well-crafted (and for Penny's fans, familiar) characters combine for a thoughtful, intriguing tale. More than a simple mystery, Penny's novel peels away the emotional and psychological layers of the inhabitants of Three Pines..'

### ★ **Publishers Weekly (starred review)**

'The bucolic Quebec village of Three Pines again proves no refuge in Penny's stellar 11th Armand Gamache novel.... Gamache has settled in the small community after retiring from the Sûreté, where he worked as a homicide detective. But he's drawn back to the hunt after Laurent Lepage, a nine-year-old boy with a penchant for crying wolf, is found dead under circumstances that Gamache finds suspicious.... Series fans will delight in Penny's continued complex fleshing out of characters they have come to love..'

### ★ **Booklist**

'...a compelling mystery that leads to an exciting but tantalizingly open-ended finale.'

### ★ **Miami Herald**

'Louise Penny is unsurpassed at building a sense of heart-stopping urgency. Sometimes the stakes are personal...Sometimes the threat is to the village...This time Penny manages to create a threat that could truly be worldwide, and to place its future in the hands of our friends in Three Pines.'

Attention, fans who have been waiting for poet Ruth Zardo's backstory: Here's at least part of your wish granted.'

★ **Wall Street Journal**

'...atmospheric and deeply humane...'

★ **Richmond Times-Dispatch**

'... a gripping plot, rich characterizations, arresting prose and thought-provoking questions of mercy, malice and the contradictions of the human race.'

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THE NATURE OF THE BEAST has also been singled out for special mentions:

The Independent Booksellers have named it an IndieNext Outstanding Book

People Magazine made it a Best Book of the Week

The Library Association named it an August LibraryReads

The US television talk show The View named it a Great Fall Read

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST has been selected by Amazon as a Book of the Month for September

The Boston Globe has chosen THE NATURE OF THE BEAST as their Book of the Week

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## ***RECIPES INSPIRED BY THREE PINES***

I suspect you have wondered about the food in the books. Well, I love to eat, but I don't myself cook. When I write I am surrounded by poetry books and cookbooks.

A couple of months ago a young woman contacted me. She was fascinated by the meals Clara, Olivier, ? Armand and all the rest of them shared (with the possible exception of Ruth's dinner party). She and a friend asked my permission to start a blog called The Night is a Strawberry, in which they would cook their way through the books, recreating the meals and musing on different themes of the books.

When I saw the quality of their first test post I happily agreed. Well, The Night is a Strawberry is now live. [Here's the link.](#) Bon appetit.

## MICHAEL

For this tour Michael gets to stay home with caregivers and Bishop. Heaven knows he put his time in, and loved it! We were remembering, just before I left, all the events he was there for. All the Malice Domestics, all the Bouchercons. The CWA dinners in London and the CWC dinners in Toronto.

We literally went around the world with The Cruellest Month, launching it in Singapore. Then onto Australia and New Zealand on tour.

The first tour Michael financed – and there were events, in San Francisco and in Boston in particular, when no one was there. Except the bookseller. And Michael.

But still, we had a blast! And now, first thing in the morning, I call him, and before the evening event I call him. And we tell each other about our days. To be honest, at this stage Michael is barely talking, so I tell him about my day, and ask if he's happy.

'I'm happy.' He invariably says.

'How are you feeling?'

'Perfect.' Is his response. Perfect.

'I miss you,' I'll say.

'I miss you too.'

'I love you.'

'I love you too.'

What else, really, needs to be said?

And then he goes off to bed and I go off to the event, with a smile on my face.

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Everything we've worked toward has brought us to this wonderful moment, with THE NATURE OF THE BEAST. I know you've been with us too, cheering, and commiserating, and supporting. Spreading the word.

Thank you! This is a thrilling time, and I am so pleased The Beast is Released!!

Snort it in.

Hope this finds you perfect too.

Louise

*(To see the photographs used in this newsletter in a larger size  
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