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Louise Penny's August Newsletter

Dear First name

"She is too fond of books and it has addled her brains" Louisa Mae Alcott

This months quote comes from Timothy & Mildred Hanrahant

I hope you're having a wonderful summer...we're enjoying the most splendid one in years, in every way. We're harvesting peas and broccoli from the vegetable garden, raspberries are growing wild around the pond - where we fight the birds and deer and bears for them. We are not often the winners. And great trees of Stargazer and Casablanca Oriental Lilies are up in the perennial gardens, perfuming our home. Above is a picture Michael took of our screen porch two days ago.

Our health is great - Michael's eyes as clear and bright as ever. His back is giving some trouble, but whose isn't? And my health is great too. We have some friends, as I suspect you do too, who are struggling with ill health, and it certainly makes us aware how lucky we are! But it's the weather that's been the most wonderful - sunny and hot. We don't have air conditioning so some nights are difficult to sleep - but we live on the porch. And pinch ourselves (and sometimes each other) at how lucky we are to live here in Quebec. But I'm sure you feel the same way about your home. So fortunate to love where you live.

Coming soon

As the publication date for BURY YOUR DEAD nears I'm getting both more excited, and nervous. I actually honestly believe you'll like this book. It was the most difficult to write, not simply because it's in effect three mysteries woven together, but because it's the most personal to Armand Gamache. We get to known him much better, his habits, but mostly his thoughts and emotions.

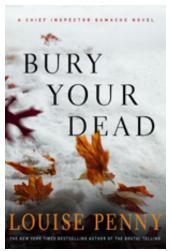
In the July Newsletter I told you about the starred reviews from Booklist and Kirkus. Since then BURY YOUR DEAD also received a starred review in **Library Journal**:

Superb...brilliantly provocative and will appeal to fans of literary fiction, as well as to mystery lovers.

Bury Your Dead - a little bit about the story

BURY YOUR DEAD finds the Chief Inspector recovering from a terrible police action he led, that went wrong. He's on leave in Quebec City, visiting his mentor and spending time in a magnificent and all but forgotten library in the Literary and Historical Society,

Bury your Dead US Edition



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within the walls of the old city. The Society is one of the last bastians of the dwindling English community, and a place where Gamache finally finds some measure of peace and quiet. Until the body of an eccentric amateur archaeologist is found in the basement of the Lit and His. The man had spent his days trying to solve a centuries old mystery. What happened to the body of Samuel de Champlain, the founder of Quebec? Where is he buried? As Chief Inspector Gamache gets closer to solving the murder, and the mystery, he also struggles to come to terms with his own grief and guilt. Meanwhile, another mystery is being investigated in Three Pines.

Advanced Reader Copy - winners

As you might know, I've been giving out Advance Readers Copies (ARCs) of BURY YOUR DEAD in various places, including Facebook and - here! Congratulations to: Jill Leahy and Peggy Hagy - they're the winners of the July draw for the ARCs.

August ARC giveaway

I'm going to be giving away just two more copies of the ARC of BURY YOUR DEAD. If you've already entered, not to worry, your name is still in the fairly large hat. If you haven't yet entered, just write me at: contact@louisepenny.com and please make sure the subject line says: ARC, or something like that. Stunningly Brilliant Louise would also get my attention. Best not to write Cheap Pharmaceuticals or Nigerian Bank.

Dimples

Now, I have a small confession to make. In the last newsletter I might have claimed that BURY YOUR DEAD was so good it cures male pattern baldness and cellulite. Seems that might not be the case. Clearly my claim about baldness is completely true, but the army of researchers in our labs have been testing BURY YOUR DEAD and have come up with a startling discovery. It seems that it, like the rest of the Armand Gamache books, it does not in fact cure cellulite. The books might actually cause it. Ooops.

Never mind.

Bury Your Dead - September 28th

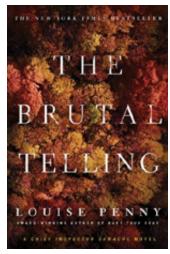
BURY YOUR DEAD will be in stores September 28th, and I would so appreciate if you could tell as many people as possible about the books, and specifically about BURY YOUR DEAD. I'd really love your help. (Best not to mention the cellulite. shhh) Thank you! You can pre-order it from your local bookstore, as well as on Amazon. If I might suggest, it would be great to try the bookstore first - so wonderful to support them.

THE HANGMAN - grade 3 level novella

August is a fun month. The novella, with Chief Inspector Gamache and set in Three Pines, is now available through the publishers, Grass Roots Press.

It's called THE HANGMAN - but you need to know something. It's written as part of a programme called GoodReads Canada, which was created by national literacy organizations to publish books aimed at emerging adult readers. So, THE HANGMAN is written at a grade 3 level, for adults. Very clear, very simple. Not really the most complex plot or style, for obvious reasons.

The Brutal Telling US Edition



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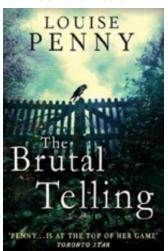
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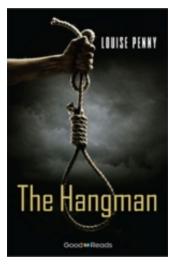


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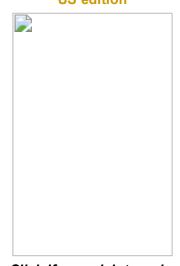


If you're interested you can ask your local bookstore to order it, or go directly to <u>Grass Roots Press</u>. It's also available on <u>Amazon.ca</u>

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Cruellest Month UK/Canada edition

STILL LIFE / EN PLEIN COEUR



And the first of the series to come out in French - the translation of STILL LIFE - will be launched to the media on August 25th, then available to the public the 2nd of September. It's called En plein coeur.

It can be ordered through Amazon.ca and Archambault.ca

August events

I have a couple of events this month too - Giles Blunt, another Canadian crime writer, and I will be sharing a stage on Saturday morning, August 7th, as part of the Stratford Festival's Celebrated Writers series. Then Michael and I are jumping on a plane and heading to the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia and the village of Sechelt, for the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Word. On Friday, August 13th I'll be interviewing on stage fellow mystery writer and one of the founders of the festival, Gwen Southin. Then I have my own event Saturday morning, August 14th, and having lunch with a local book club.

Speaking of literary festivals, the first annual Knowlton WordFest literary festival was in mid-July and a huge success. Plan to come next summer - it's exciting!

New York

At the beginning of the month Michael and I went to New York City. It had always scared us a little. Not just the size, but it seemed so impersonal. We felt we couldn't really get a toe-hold. And then we realized why. We'd been staying in mid-town, which is filled with museums and fabulous attractions, but not really much of a neighbourhood feel. This trip, though, we stayed in the Union Square

area - downtown. By the village. It was exactly what we needed! From the moment we left the hotel we felt comfortable, at home. There were restaurants - Friend of A Farmer for breakfast - the Blue Water Grill for dinners - a magnificent Lebanese restaurant one night (as you see, most of our activities were food-centric). And on the weekend all these street fairs and farmers markets. Also met up with my wonderful editor, Hope Dellon, of Minotaur Books for dinner. Had a fun lunch with 14 Barnes and Nobles buyers, breakfast with a writer for Publishers Weekly, and Michael and I had cocktails with Andy Martin, the publisher of Minotaur, and Matthew Shear, the publisher of St Martin's Press. At the top of the newsletter there's a picture of the three of us...Matthew on the left, me (in case it wasn't clear), showing off my appendix and Andy. I feel like I've been transported to one of those wonderful old films. Lucky gal.

SPCA fundraising tea





We ended July here with the big SPCA Monteregie fundraising tea, at our home. It was yesterday, July 31st. 150 people, dogs, kids (not for adopting - well, maybe a few), sandwiches, pastries, lemonade, tea. It was a glorious, sunny day. So many volunteers working so hard.

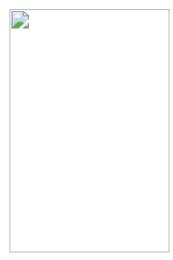
My Assistant Lise doing the flower arrangements, the chairs and of course the gardens. We raised over 12,000 dollars for medical equipment for the no-kill animal shelter. And had huge fun doing it. Fortunately we managed to keep it from spilling out onto the street and trashing the neighbourhood. You know what these afternoon teas can be like.





Enjoy the balance of the summer - or winter - depending where you live. Hope you're healthy and happy. Talk to you at the beginning of September. And good luck in the draw for BURY YOUR DEAD.

Louise



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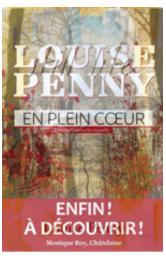
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