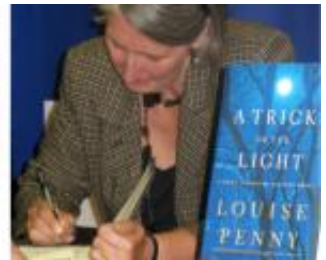


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Louise Penny's November Newsletter

"When the well's dry, we know the price of water."

- Benjamin Franklin



I hope you've enjoyed your October. Here in Quebec, it's a wonderful month with leaves at their peak, and our Thanksgiving celebrations. It's a time when families get together, when sweaters and turtlenecks and flannel bedding are pulled from cedar closets, and winter tires are put on the cars. When wood fires are lit and the heat goes on.

Home

And, more personally, a month when I returned home from book tour. Oh, what a relief. I so enjoyed meeting so many of you. But I missed Michael. And Trudy. And our patient friends. All the scents of home. The familiar sensations. I even missed cooking, can you believe it. I think Michael suspected a doppelganger returned home. A wife who suddenly loved doing housework, and laundry and cooking.

I just love being in the kitchen of our little cottage, preparing meals or making coffee. And seeing Michael in the living room in front of the stone fireplace.

Book tour

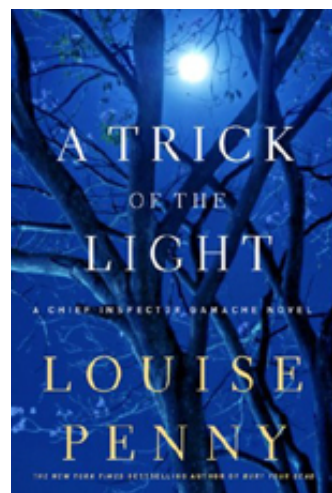
But I know part of this sense of wellbeing and deep peace comes from having had just the most magnificent launch and book tour of my life. What a time I had touring North America with *A TRICK OF THE LIGHT*, and seeing it land on so many bestseller lists. Thanks to all of you. Oh, what an autumn you've given me. *Merci!*

Indeed, the book tour had a long tail – it went into October and the month ended with an amazing event. It was called QuebeCrime and involved some of the finest crime writers working today. Ian Rankin, Denise Mina, Lawrence Block, Anne Emery, John Brady, Andrew Pyper, Hilary Davidson, among others. And me.

It was held this past weekend in Old Quebec City and was organized by Guy Dubois, the owner of the English bookstore in Quebec City called La Maison Anglaise and a blog site called The House of Crime and Mystery. Most of the events were at the Literary and Historical Society. Sound familiar? What a thrill for me to have this wonderful celebration of crime writing and reading in the setting for *Bury Your Dead*.

My event, on Friday night, was a reading at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, right beside the Lit and His – also one of the locations in the book. I read from my latest Gamache book, *A TRICK OF THE LIGHT*, but I decided to also read an excerpt from *BURY YOUR DEAD*. Such fun!

A Trick of the Light US / Canada



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Booksellers Association

Bury your Dead US, UK, Canada and the Commonwealth



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Before the event Ian, Anne and I went to the Maritime Bar in the Chateau Frontenac for a few drinks and french onion soup. We talked about writing and touring and where we live and how we live. There's a photo of Ian, who was introduced to Clamato Ceasars on this tour and has quite taken to them.

Congratulations to everyone involved in QuebeCrime. A triumph.

Thank you

A TRICK OF THE LIGHT continues on many bestseller lists, two months after publication. And I'd love to mention that it might make a good Christmas gift. I'm also a little hesitant to ask – since you've done so much already – but I know the success of this book is laid squarely at your feet. Not simply because you have bought the book – but perhaps more powerfully, you've spread the word. Told others about the Chief Inspector Gamache series. Perhaps even got them started on STILL LIFE.

If you wouldn't mind continuing to tell others, I'd be most grateful. Though, to be honest, I already am deeply grateful to you. And between us? I think you've done more than enough already.

To add to the fun, more and more foreign publishers are coming onboard and the Gamache books are now sold in 23 languages. In France, the second book, SOUS LA GLACE is about to come out. In Quebec, the fourth book will be published in French in January.

STILL LIFE / DEAD COLD TV Films

One of the things I did this month, when I returned home, was meet with the person who will almost certainly be writing the script to turn STILL LIFE and DEAD COLD into TV films – a la Wallander.

Yes – I know. I share your concerns. Suppose they get the casting wrong, or have a bad script, or poor production values. Which is why I said "no" to filming the books for so long. But I honestly think this production company will do us all proud. If not, I'll give you the high sign not to watch! But I'll be the Executive Producer, so I'll only have myself to blame. And believe me, I'll be vigilant. I think it's going to be wonderful! I'll keep you posted as we move forward.

Thanksgiving

We had a magnificent family reunion and Thanksgiving celebration, in the Ontario village of Niagara-on-the-lake, not far from Niagara Falls. Our Canadian Thanksgiving falls on the first Monday of October and is a harvest festival. The Penny family has made a tradition of all getting together, from all over the country, on that weekend and we chose that pretty village.

It was a blast – and leaves were at their best. Just a glorious drive from Quebec. One of the things we all did was go to Niagara Falls and take the boat tour – Maid of the Mist. It gets within yards of the crashing falls. It's deafening. And drenching. An absolute riot of sensations. All we could do was laugh and laugh. And get soaked! As you can see from the photo, everyone was given bright blue rain gear, with Maid of the Mist written on it.

Rain gear giveaway

Michael and I saved ours to give to you. They're actually effective, if your goal is to look like a Smurf.

We'll ask My Assistant Lise to do the official draw – at random. Though, as we all know, kind words

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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

and compliments make some names less random than others. (I'm just kidding – even if I was willing to do that, Lise ((Damn her)) is far too honest).

Just send us an email to: contact@louispenny.com and please, in the subject line, write Maid of the Mist....so we know to enter you. Good luck!

Construction site



We returned home to the construction at our main house. The roof is done – the windows are in, the fireplace in place. The Ikea kitchen, after some struggle and choice words, was assembled. Gary and Mike are working on the finishings. Like most construction projects – I'm sure you've had experience – ours is way behind, as you see from the photo.

Fancy a stab at crime writing? - Crime Writers Association competition

I also wanted to alert those of you who are emerging writers that the Crime Writers Association in Britain is now accepting submissions for the next Debut Dagger competition. It's the one that launched my career, when I couldn't get any interest at all in STILL LIFE. [Here's the link](#) with the submission guidelines.

Good luck.

And, if you need inspiration – I just received this email from Peggy Blair, who lives in Ottawa, Canada.

I am quite sure I broke your record for rejections before I read your story about your success in the Debut Dagger and decided to apply. I was shortlisted in 2010 and while I didn't win, or get an honourable mention, I did meet Ian Rankin in the bar and ended up with a referral to his agent. The rest, as they say, is history. The Beggar's Opera is a crime mystery novel set in Cuba – I have a two book deal with Penguin and foreign rights in Norway, Holland and Germany.

Isn't that wonderful? But there does seem to be a theme emerging, of writers and bars. Or maybe it's Ian Rankin and bars. But clearly, the bar issue isn't the "take-away" in Peggy's letter. It's not to give up! (and if all else fails, go to a bar). If Peggy can use the Debut Dagger as a springboard, If I can, and Alan Bradley can do it (who, by the way has his brilliant new book out in November I AM HALF SICK OF SHADOWS) – then so can you!

Have a marvelous, safe, peaceful November – I'll be at the Salon du Livres in Montreal mid-month. And spending the rest of November editing book 8, THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY, and cooking, and taking Trudy for walks. And reconnecting with friends.

And counting my blessings.

Thank you for your company.

Louise

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