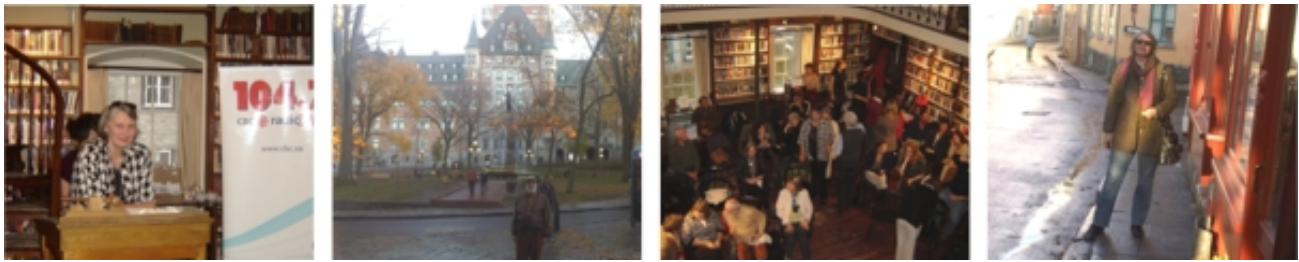


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Louise Penny's November Newsletter

Dear First name

"My sole literary ambition is to write one good novel, then retire to my hut in the desert, assume the lotus position, compose my mind and senses, and sink into meditation, contemplating my novel."
- Edward Abbey

Well, we're just back from the Quebec launch of BURY YOUR DEAD! We held it at the Literary and Historical Society, in old Quebec City - the scene of the crime. You can see some of the photos at the top of this letter. But I'll tell you more about that later.

First, I have some wonderful news. What a month October has been!

Anthony Award for Best Crime Novel in the US

THE BRUTAL TELLING (book 5) has just won the Anthony Award for Best Crime Novel in the United States. I would use another exclamation mark but my agent and editor would dock me my advance, and then kill me. Perhaps even eat me.



The Anthony Awards were announced at the crime readers/writers convention Bouchercon in San Francisco a couple of weeks ago. I was so flabbergasted I hadn't prepared anything to say. So once again my goal of simply staying conscious and continent kicked in.

Mission accomplished. All I remember is kissing Michael, bounding up the stair, striding across a stage the size of a football field, turning, then looking out at hundreds and hundreds of people. We'd been sitting in the front of the hall for the banquet so I really hadn't appreciated just how many people were there.

It's a very strange feeling to be staring at hundreds of people. And have them staring at me.

All of us speechless.

As I'd walked across the very large stage I'd repeated to myself, 'Quick, think of something clever to say.' Then, as the podium got closer, 'Quick, think of something amusing to say.' As I reached it, before I turned, I prayed, 'Just don't say anything stupid.'

Then, as I looked at all of them looking at me, the final prayer. 'Just say something, for God's sake.'

Bury your Dead US Edition



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I'm not now sure what I said except it didn't seem as clever, smart, thoughtful and funny as everyone else's speech. But whatever it was, it was heartfelt. Because that was, finally, all I had left. My brain had stopped, but my heart was leaping and dancing and dying to get out.

To say thank you.

I do know what I hoped to say. I wanted to thank my wonderful agents, Teresa Chris and Patty Moosbrugger. And Hope Dellon, my US editor. And everyone at the finest imprint in the States for crime fiction, Minotaur Books.

I wanted to thank Michael, for always being my partner, even when we hadn't yet met.

But ultimately I wanted to thank you. The readers. For finding this small series set in a small village in an insignificant province in a country few know or care about. And for seeing, as I say at the beginning of BURY YOUR DEAD, that while always murder mysteries, my books are more about life than death.



photo credit - Chris Halliday/Orangeville Banner

Thank you for lifting the characters and the settings off the page. For breathing life into Gamache and Beauvoir, Clara and Myrna.

I'm not sure what came out of my mouth, but those were the words in my heart. And still are.

And there was more great news in October.

Bury your Dead - New York Times bestseller

BURY YOUR DEAD was launched and immediately hit both the New York Times bestseller list (two weeks running) and the **USA Today bestseller list!**

I know this has happened because you've not only bought the book, but told others about the novels. Thank you! I wonder if I could ask you to keep spreading the word? I so appreciate it.

Book tour

It has been an amazing month. I've spent all of it traveling, across New England, to Phoenix, Houston, Nashville. After three weeks apart Michael met me in Regina where we had a family Thanksgiving (and I lost my luggage - though it turned up the next day, phew). Then Michael joined me for the tour and we headed off to the Calgary WordFest and then down to San Francisco for Bouchercon.

Funny, I can describe it in just one paragraph that takes a minute to read. Yet it was a long, packed, emotional, stressful, lonely, vibrant, joyous time. I found myself in tears in a hotel room one evening, stressed out and lonely and exhausted. Then took the travel clothes off, put the event clothes on and headed out to a talk and reading. Frankly not wanting to. And yet, once there, I felt embraced by so many readers. Felt invigorated and welcomed. And I was so happy to be there.

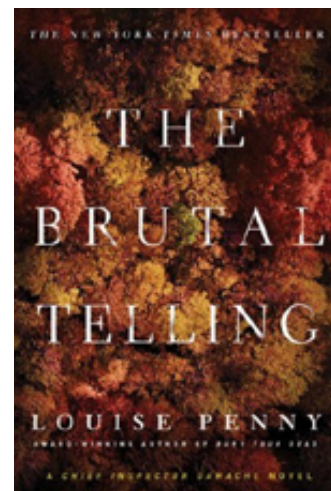
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**The Brutal Telling
UK, Canada and the
Commonwealth**

How amazing it feels to stand at the front of a room and see a sea of smiling, nodding faces. All there because of the books.

When I did my first book tour, years ago, hardly anyone came. More than once I spoke to one or two people (who probably wished they weren't there). But now it's standing room only and the stores run out of books.

It's a staggering, humbling, wonderful feeling.

Quebec City - Bury Your Dead book launch

Michael and I ended the month of October in Toronto at the International Festival of Authors, then an event in Orangeville and finally - the culmination of a month of touring - in the magnificent, glorious Quebec City.

Where better to do the Quebec launch of this very Quebec book than at the scene of the crime?

BURY YOUR DEAD is set mostly within the walls of old Quebec City. A place steeped in history and built on bones and irony. At one stage I describe Quebec as a rowboat society - moving forward but looking back.

I think Quebec is not unique in that. Nor is there necessarily anything wrong with looking back. The key, of course, is not to be tethered to the past.

The body of a famous and quite sensationally eccentric amateur archeologist is found partly buried in the basement of the Literary and Historical Society - an Anglo island in an ocean of French. This man's murder ignites more than one mystery, including one of the great mysteries in Quebec history.

Whatever happened to the body of Samuel de Champlain, the father of Quebec? Where is he buried? And why has his body disappeared? The amateur archeologist spent his career in the monomaniacal pursuit of those old bones.

And now he himself is dead.

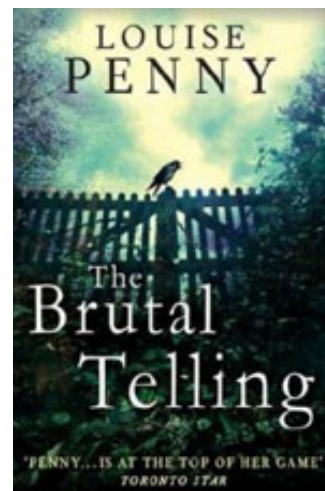
Could this 400 year old body contain a secret so terrible someone would kill to keep him buried? What exactly is hiding under the genteel façade of old Quebec City?

And what is hiding beneath the Literary and Historical Society?

Well - you'll have to read BURY YOUR DEAD to find out. But we sure had a lot of fun being right there to launch the book.

Jacque Czernin, the host of CBC Radio Quebec's Breakaway did a live show from the Lit and His, celebrating the launch. Then we had a party afterward. Giving away special edition wines with book cover labels from Domain Bresee in Sutton, Quebec. We also gave away Vive Gamache mugs. All this organized by My Assistant Lise - who was also there, celebrating. We had such fun and generally disturbed the peace and quiet of this beautiful library.

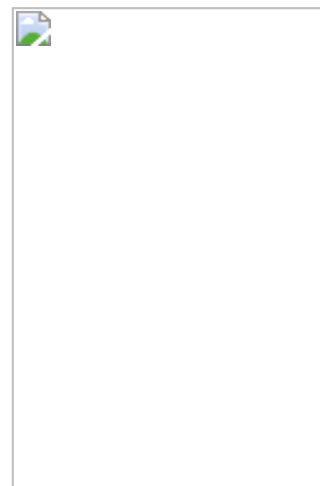
Thank you so much to Donna Nopper, of Hachette Canada, for being such an amazing publicist and flying in from Toronto for the event. Thanks to Peter Black and Jacque Czernin and everyone from CBC Radio Quebec. Thanks to Simon Jacobs and everyone at the Morrin Centre, where the Literary and Historical Society is located. And to Guy Dubois of the wonderful bookstore, La Maison Anglaise, for all his terrific support.



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Cruellest Month
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If you find yourself in Quebec City, do drop in to the [Morrin Centre](#) and see the Literary and Historical Society library. It's a gem. And, if you feel like it, please leave a small donation. They can use the help, as can all small libraries.

Interviews

It's been a month of interviews as well, and I thought you might like to read a couple of them. Click on the links to view the article in the Toronto [Globe and Mail](#) and the written interview on [CBC.ca](#).

November tour dates

The tour continues into the end of November.

Nov 2	North Conway, NH - White Birth Books - 7pm
Nov 3	Burlington, VT - Barnes and Noble - 7pm
Nov 4	Noon luncheon / speech to the Contactivity Centre in Montreal. 3pm taped interview CBC Radio with Shelagh Rogers - Montreal
Nov 6	Arnprior, Ontario, bookstore - 1pm event with Andrew Pyper
Nov 6 to Nov 18	London, England - publisher meetings
Nov 19	Montreal Salon du Livres 7-8:30pm book signing
Nov 20	Montreal Salon du Livres 1-3 book signing
Nov 21	HOME!!!!
Nov 27	4pm talk at the Georgeville Community Centre, in Georgeville, Quebec
Nov 28	2pm - celebration and signing at Brome Lake Books in Knowlton, Quebec!! With Danny and Lucy - the last event - and where better to celebrate than home!

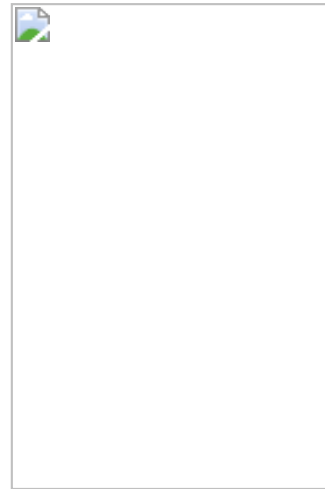
I had been scheduled to be at the Miami BookFair but there was a last minute scheduling conflict and it wasn't possible. Next year, we hope!

If you'd like to follow the tour, you can join me on the [blog](#). I try to write everyday, but that isn't always possible.

Be well, my friends. I know October has been a mixed month for some of you. Some dreadful news. And for others it has been a month of blessings.

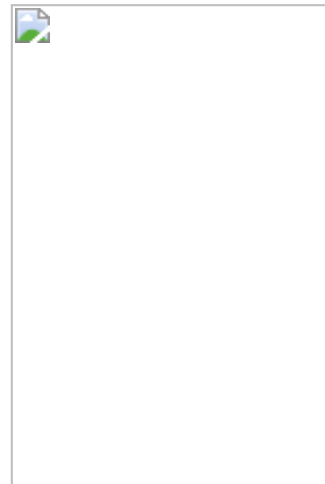
I hope, though, you know peace. And comfort. Thank you for your company.

Louise



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