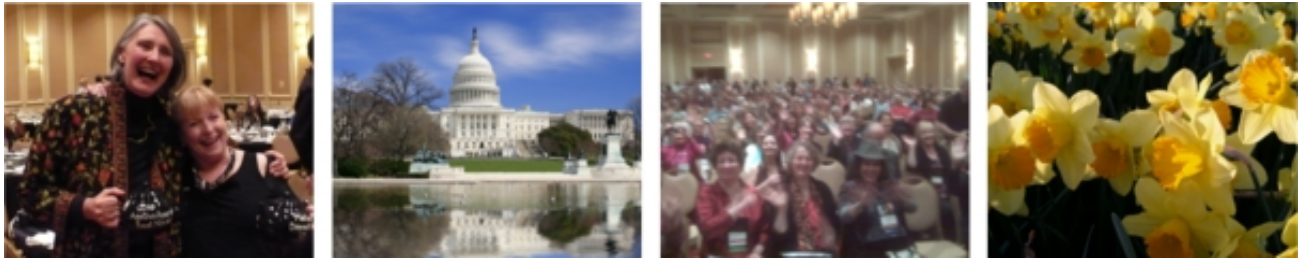


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Louise Penny's May Newsletter

Dear First name

"Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart."
- Victor Hugo

Hope you're enjoying the spring! We sure are. At last.

Agatha Award

BURY YOUR DEAD has just won the Agatha for Best Novel at this year's Malice domestic. The only series to ever win 4 Agathas. I am so thrilled. And SO deeply grateful to not only the readers, of course - but my fellow writers, for being so understanding and so generous. And tolerant.

Yippeee!!!

And my fellow Canadian, Mary Jane Maffini, won for Best Short Story! The photo above is of us together!

Arthur Ellis Award nomination

We had more wonderful news a few days ago. BURY YOUR DEAD has been shortlisted for the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Crime Novel. It's sponsored by the Crime Writers of Canada. Here's the complete list of nominees for Best Novel:

Michael Van Rooy for A Criminal to Remember; Louise Penny for Bury Your Dead; Mike Knowles for In Plain Sight; C.B Forrest for Slow Recoil; and Jeffrey Moore for The Extinction Club. Wonderful list, but bittersweet. Michael Van Rooy, a wonderful Winnipeg writer was on tour with his book this past winter, when he died. He was in Montreal, and apparently had a heart attack. He was 42 and left a wife and young children. It was and continues to be, a shock.

Congratulations to everyone nominated! The Ellis Awards will be in Victoria, British Columbia, June 2nd.

Malice Domestic

We're writing you from Washington, DC, and loving the trees in full bloom, the scent of mown grass, walking outside in shirtsleeves. Beautiful, sunny days - now that the tornados and severe thunder storms have passed. We're here for the annual mystery readers/writers conference, Malice Domestic. Don't you just love the name?! The crowd scene above is from the opening ceremonies of Malice, when they introduced the nominees for Best Novel. I took Michael's BlackBerry up with me so you could see what I saw. I asked everyone to wave at you. Having a ball. Meeting people, doing some panels, listening to others, including a tribute to Lyn Hamilton,

Bury your Dead US Edition



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who was a wonderful and supportive Canadian crime writer. She died a few months ago.

I also did a one hour interview on stage with Janet Rudolph, of Mystery Reader's International.



She was presented with this year's Poirot Award, for outstanding contribution to the genre. A remarkable woman.

As you can see by her photo, Janet was pretty much fated to win the Poirot award.

May Events

From here I travel to Pittsburgh, for the Festival of Mystery, in Oakmont on Monday afternoon and evening, May 2nd. It's at the Greek Orthodox Church, starting at five. The festival is organized by Richard and Mary Alice, at [Mystery Lovers Bookshop](#). If you want to see the list of all the amazing writers who'll be there, just go to the store's website.

Then on Tuesday it's off to Bradford, a small town in northern Pennsylvania. They chose STILL LIFE as their One Book, One Community read this year, and I agreed to go and do a few events.

Along the same lines, it's been announced that STILL LIFE has been chosen by the entire province of Prince Edward Island to be the One Book, One Island selection. They're also doing the French version of the book, EN PLEIN COEUR.

And, BURY YOUR DEAD will be the One Book, One Community selection for Kitchener-Waterloo, in Ontario.

From Bradford I head home. To try to finish the first draft of the next book. Since I generally do five or six drafts, I'll still be far from finished. But the first draft is always the most difficult.

Word Count competition

And now - the word count!

You might remember that last month I announced a contest. Guess what the word count would be for the first draft at the end of April. The two people closest to it will win signed Advance Reader's Copies (ARCs) of my next book - A TRICK OF THE LIGHT.

Ready?

The word count is: **64,041**

Now, since I'm away I can't consult the entries from last month and tell you who won. But as soon as I get home, I'll write to the winners.

Thank you for all your entries, and wonderful notes.

And - since the writing continues, so does the contest!

Win an ARC of A TRICK OF THE LIGHT

What do you think my word count will be by the end of May? Please write to contact@louispenny.com And please put your deeply thoughtful and considered opinion (read: wild guess) on the subject line. Since it's cumulative, the subject line should read: 145,568 words (dear lord, don't let it be that much, or the editing will be hideous!)

Still Life US/ French editions



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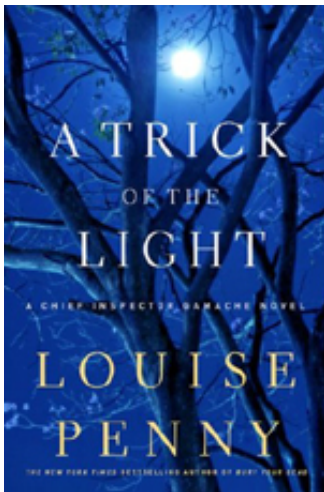
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The Brutal Telling
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Once again, the two people closest will win a signed ARC for A TRICK OF THE LIGHT.



Let me tell you a bit about the book. You can see the fabulous cover. For the first time in the Gamache series, the cover will be the same in the US and Canada. And it will be released on exactly the same day - **August 30th**.

A TRICK OF THE LIGHT is set in spring, in Three Pines where Clara Morrow is preparing for her big solo art show. A show we've been hoping she'll finally get since we first met the Morrrows back in STILL LIFE. But there are a few disturbing questions. Will Clara's art be embraced by a sophisticated and jaded art world? And if it is, how will her husband Peter react? An artist himself, he carries around both his gift of creation and his burden of jealousy.

But the biggest question is: Who is the body found in Clara's garden after the big opening night party? And who killed her?

Chief Inspector Gamache, of the Surete du Quebec, travels once again to this little village that, like Peter, like all the residents, is both blessed and blighted. It's a wonderful place to live, and an easy place to die.

As Gamache investigates he delves deeper and deeper into the murky world of art and artists. Where nothing is as it seems, where bright smiles hide dark thoughts, where rotten deeds are glossed over. Gamache soon realizes even the truth is a matter of perception, and might not be real at all but simply a trick of the light.

As I mentioned, the book will be launched in Canada and the US on August 30th.

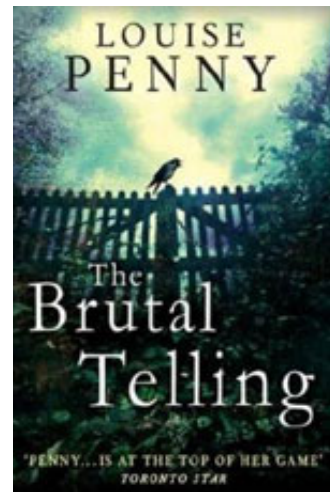
Pre-ordering is always a good idea since the first edition hard covers sell out quickly. You can go to the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association ([IMBA](#)), your local independent bookstore, or of course the biggies like [Barnes and Noble](#), [Borders](#), [Chapter](#) and [Amazon.com](#) or [Amazon.ca](#).

And, for those of you computer literate, if you order off the web, I'd really appreciate it if you click the 'like' button. I think it makes an impression.

And - now the big favour - please tell others about A TRICK OF THE LIGHT and the other books. I know most of you have already spread the word, but what's amazing these days is how many of you are 'connected'. Through Facebook, or blogs, or Twitter. You can reach thousands of people.

It would be so helpful if you could use those resources to tell others how you feel about the books.

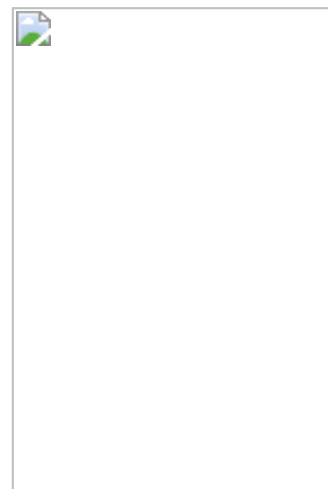
Thank you!



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**Cruelest Month
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Facebook fan page

And, while I'm mentioning Facebook, we did the big switch this past month from my personal page to a fanpage, so it's even easier to find and to join me there. I'll also be giving away ARCs through the [Facebook page](#). Just click and join me there!

April

Michael is well, and sends his best. He celebrated his 77th birthday on April 10th. He too has winter on his head, but eternal spring in his heart. He's with me here in Washington. He loves coming to Malice Domestic. But he's heading home to look after Trudy, while I head off to Pittsburgh.

April was a fun month for us, with birthdays, the Salon du Livres in Quebec City, writing, Easter.

On Friday morning Michael and I turned on the TV early and caught some of the Royal Wedding. Loved it! I actually cried. I found it very moving. All that tradition. The young people so beautiful, and with such responsibility. And such love.

But for many it really has been the cruelest month, and we're very aware of that. All the flooding and fires and tornadoes, the earthquakes. And then there were the more personal disasters. Accidents and diagnoses.

Every morning Michael and I hold hands and do a short prayer and silent meditation. We hold you there and send out kind thoughts.

Spring is struggling to take root in Quebec. Sleet, hail, snow warnings, rain warning. Crocuses, bluebells, trees in bud. Ducks and geese and peeper frogs in the pond. Wild turkeys at the bird feeders and ladybugs all over the house. Apparently they're good luck. And I can believe it, since we've had more than our share of good luck. Except when we sometimes snort a ladybug. But really, it could be worse. We could snort a wild turkey.

Must leave you now. I have a panel in a few minutes, and Michael's heading to the airport. Don't forget about A TRICK OF THE LIGHT!

Thank you for keeping us company. The journey's so much more fun with you.

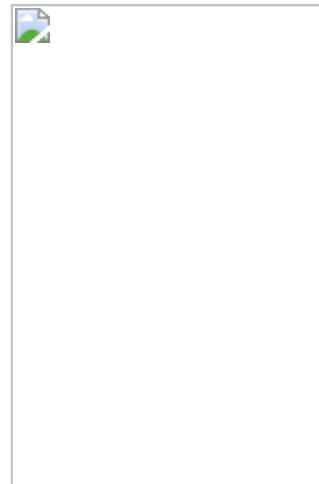
Hope this finds you well, and in full spring.

Louise



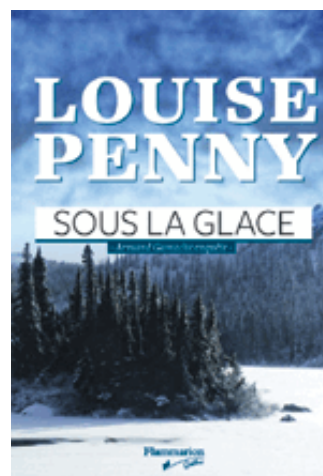
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