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## Louise Penny's May Newsletter

"Another well-known Paris landmark is the Arc de Triomphe, a moving monument to the many brave women and men who have died trying to visit it." - **Dave Barry**

### Glorious City

Well, we're not in Paris, but we are still in London - and Dave Barry's quote could sure apply to just about every landmark in The Big Smoke - with all the road work and construction to prepare for the Summer Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee.

And yet - for all the traffic chaos - it is a glorious city.

Hope you're enjoying the visit to London as much as we are! Michael and I are having a blast. Going to galleries and shows (the Hockney, the Damien Hirst) and restaurants. We just adore Afternoon Tea - with tiny sandwiches, which are really just polite bumps on the road to the scones and clotted cream.

We've gone for great long walks through Hyde Park, and sometimes we just stay in our rented flat. Reading, and writing.

We've fallen into a calm rhythm. We wake up and while I prepare the fruit for breakfast Michael goes across the street to the café, for some huge cups of double strength lattes. Then he sits in the living room with the newspapers, and I sit in the kitchen with the laptop.

He reads.

I write.

By noon, he's finished the papers and I've done with writing, and we're ready to head into this city we both adore. Much of the time we just walk, or hop on a double decker and watch the world go by.

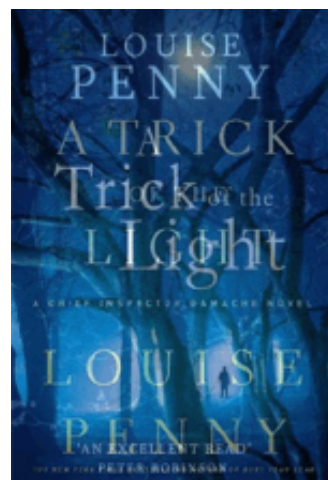
### New Contract

I'm also meeting with my UK publishers (Little, Brown/Sphere) and Teresa Chris, my agent, and with book sellers. The London Book Fair was on in April as well. And then there's the film agent to talk with.

While here, Teresa and I met for lunch - as you can see in the photo above - and I signed the new contract! I'd brought a bottle of champagne for Teresa, so she could toast it later. She then mailed it back to New York, and the other photo is of Andy Martin, the publisher at Minotaur Books - maniacally clasp the contract! He's standing in front of a Hitchcock poster I found for him. I Confess was an early Hitchcock, filmed in Quebec City. I gave it to him as a gift, to celebrate making number 4 on the Times list.



### A Trick of the Light US / Canada / UK



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### Bury your Dead US, UK, Canada and the Commonwealth



Click if you wish to order

Not sure what we'll do if THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY makes it higher! But I'm happy to meet that challenge.

## The Beautiful Mystery



August 28th 2012

And - speaking of THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY - guess that arrived in London?! Sarah Melnyk, the US publicist, mailed off an advance copy of THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY....and here I am, clutching it. I wish I could describe how thrilling it is to hold my new book. But I suspect you know exactly how I feel.

The only thing, for me, better than holding it myself is thinking that before long, you'll be holding it. And reading it.

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY is set in a remote monastery in Quebec. The monks have chosen a life of splendid isolation, of quietude. To contemplate nature and God. To commune with the Divine, without distractions. They've taken a vow of silence, and so go about their days in near complete peace and quiet. Except during the services that highlight their monastic day. The Divine Office. The simple services are sung in chants so old they predate written music. Plain chant. Gregorian chant.

But while the monks might choose not to speak, there are other ways to communicate. And lately a battle, fought in near silence, has shattered their community. And led to murder. When Chief Inspector Gamache and Inspector Beauvoir, of the Sûreté du Québec, arrive they enter a cloistered and secretive community. Shut off from the outside world. They meet men trained to conceal how they feel and what they think.

As Gamache and Beauvoir soon discover, the monks have both a vow and a culture of silence. But they also possess voices so beautiful that their recording of Gregorian chants has brought them worldwide fame.

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY is about the plain chant at the heart of their monastic life and the power of that music to inspire and corrupt. But Chief Inspector Gamache soon realizes the real issue isn't music, divine or otherwise. It's tyranny. And the courage it takes to stand up to it.

Which leaves Gamache and Beauvoir with an unsettling question. Was the monk murdered by the tyrant, or because he was the tyrant?

In the great silence of the monastery, Gamache and Beauvoir come face to face with their own truths, and their own tyrants. While so many are kneeling down, Gamache must discover if he has the courage to stand up.

I hope you like THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY. I'm so looking forward to you reading it! It will be published in the US, Canada, and the UK on August 28th.

## Advance Readers Copies - GIVEAWAY

My Assistant Lise and I have been giving away two advance copies a month for the last few months. April's winners are:

*Tina in Maine*

*Sharron in Montreal*

Congratulations! As soon as I get back to Canada, in mid-May, I'll sign the books and we'll mail them

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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**

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out to the winners.

Now, for May's Advance Reader's Copy (ARC) contest, we thought we'd have some fun. I'm asking you to complete a sentence.

Ready? Here it is:

***Armand Gamache held the café au lait between his large hands and, looking out the bistro window, was shocked to see....***

Your job is to finish that sentence in your own words. The two winners will get a signed advance copy of THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY.

Please, when you enter, put "ARC Contest" in the subject line. And please include where you're writing from, just [click here](#) to email your answer and details.

Good luck - and, don't forget to pre-order THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY.

Thank you so much for telling so many others about the books! And spreading the word about THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY. I can't tell you how much I appreciate it and what a difference it makes.

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### **A TRICK OF THE LIGHT - Shortlisted for the Arthur Ellis Award**

While in London we received the terrific news that A TRICK OF THE LIGHT has been shortlisted for the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Crime Novel in Canada. Here's the complete shortlist.

*A Trick of the Light by Louise Penny, St. Martin's Press*

*Before the Poison by Peter Robinson, McClelland and Stewart*

*I Am Half-Sick of Shadows by Alan Bradley, Doubleday Canada*

*I'll See you in My Dreams by William Deverell, McClelland and Stewart*

*The Guilty Plea by Robert Rotenberg, Simon&Schuster*

Congratulations, all!

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### **May**

I'll be heading back to Canada in a few days while Michael and one of his sons head off to Scotland.

May is a busy month. **The Vive Gamache chair auction ends on May 5th.** If you want more information on it, or to bid, [here's the link](#). The money is going to a terrific cause in our local village. My Assistant Lise, Michael and I all wanted to do what we could to help. And thank you for your help too.

As well - May is Crime Fiction month in Canada. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is celebrating by making crime fiction the focus for their Canada Writes campaign this month. (It's called Canada Writes, but I think it's open to people from other countries).

All sorts of amazing Canadian crime writers, from Gail Bowen to Vicki Delany to Barbara Fradkin and Giles Blunt are involved. The CBC has asked me to be the Writer-in-Residence for the month, and I agreed. Anything to promote crime writing.

[Here's the link](#) to that. It should be fun.

Finally, I just want to thank you for your support. For your happiness when things go well for me, and your comfort when it doesn't. It would be hollow indeed, if I had all sorts of success but found no one else much cared.

Thank you for your company. Hope you're thriving and healthy and happy.

Speak to you soon!

Louise

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