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Louise Penny's November Newsletter

"Proofread carefully to see if you any words out."

- **Author Unknown**

October

Hope this finds you well, and happy - and safe from disasters, natural or otherwise. What a dreadful storm we've seen wallop the northeast of the US and Canada. Thankfully we've been spared, but so many others have been hit so hard.

October had been another hectic month around here - and I suspect for you too. Does it ever settle down?

I can get all caught up in work, and more than a little frazzled and frayed - but on good days I can step back and realize this isn't a burden, this isn't a crisis, this isn't a problem, this is a blessing. My dream come true.

Then I gather my wits, exhale and that weight lifts. Nothing changes, except how I view things. Burdens become blessings.

On very, very good days, I remember to do my sums. And I have a lot of them to count.

October was some month!

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY went into its seventh printing.

A TRICK OF THE LIGHT won the Anthony Award for best Crime Novel in the US.

STILL LIFE was filmed.

BOOK NINE (not the actual title) was 'finished' and sent to my agent.

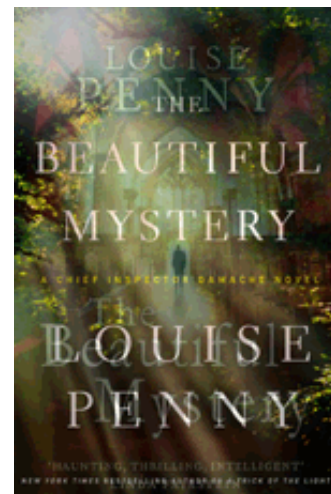
Vancouver International Writer's Festival

Michael and I had just a blast at the Vancouver International Writer's Festival. I was on a panel with two other Canadian crime writers, Deryn Collier and Robert Rotenberg (pictured above). Amazing writers. Then, in the evening, Rupert Lang, the music director of Christ Church Cathedral, and a part of his choir, joined me on stage.

As I read selections from THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY, they wove their voices in and out, singing Gregorian Chants. I hope that from the audience's point of view it was half as magical as it was on stage. Absolutely breathtaking. In the prologue, where I describe the very first musical notes being written, codifying plainchant, on stage



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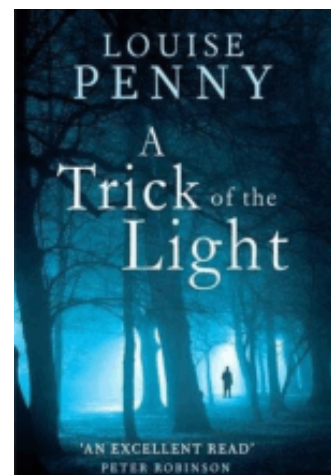
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a single voice began to sing. And then, at the end of the description I paused, and the entire choir joined in in plainchant.

I still tremble when I think of it.

VOTE for The Beautiful Mystery

In another piece of great good news, THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY has been nominated for the prestigious CANADA READS programme. This is an event on CBC Radio, where, over the course of several months, Canadian books are chosen, then whittled down to five....one per region. Right now, we're at the longlist stage, of 50 books. Classics and contemporary, fiction and non-fictions....and in the ten books nominated for Quebec, there's THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY.

Now - those 50 will be whittled down to 25 - five per region. And it's all dependent upon votes - just like the famous CanLit Hunger Games, where, thanks to you, Chief Inspector Gamache narrowly escaped being killed by his nemesis, Anne of Green Gables. He went on to win the Games!

Well, I'm going to ask for your help again. THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY needs your votes to progress to the next round. As far as I know, anyone in the world can vote. [Here's the link](#). If you have the time, I'd really appreciate your help!

Vote today, vote often. (They say you can only vote once, but 'they' say so many things that might not be true...)

It's so wonderful to know how well THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY has been received. It continues on many bestseller lists, staying on the New York Times list for 5 weeks - a personal best, thanks to you!

Thank you for giving me so many blessings to count, and a life beyond anything I ever dared imagine would be mine.

I hope you enjoyed the book, and that your friends did too. And perhaps it might make a good Christmas gift (thank heaven books aren't made of glass or rocks).

Gamache café au lait mugs and NEW tote bags



Speaking of Christmas gifts, Danny and Lucy at Brome Lake Books in Knowlton, Quebec have stocked up on Vive Gamache café au lait mugs. If you'd like to order any for the holidays, either for yourself or as a gift, just email Danny and Lucy at:

Brome Lake Books blb@b2b2c.ca Or you can call them at: 450-242-2242.

And we've designed another Three Pines item, something that we hope you can use - and something easy to mail! It's a Vive Gamache Three Pines

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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

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY



tote bag - but one specially designed to roll up small so you can carry it with you. We use ours for groceries, so we needn't use plastic bags anymore. You can contact Danny and Lucy at Brome Lake Books about the Vive Gamache Three Pines totes.

After their wonderful golden retriever Jessie (our Trudy's mother) died earlier this year, they slowly began looking for another dog. They finally found Watson - a rescue mix. If you go to Danny and Lucy's bookstore you'll probably meet him!

Oh, and Danny, Lucy and their three sons were extras in the film of STILL LIFE! I think Watson might have made it in as well.

STILL LIFE - movie news

In fact, many friends and neighbours from Knowlton and the area were extras. As were the citizens of Stanbridge East, which stands in for Three Pines in the movie. The film crew, and especially the producers and actors, were all saying how wonderful and beautiful Stanbridge East is. I took full credit, bien sûr.

But I do want to sincerely thank the people of Stanbridge East for their patience and tolerance. A film crew is pretty disruptive and the villagers were all, to a person, generous and accommodating. We're hoping to have an advance screening of the film, next year, in Stanbridge East, to thank them, and perhaps raise money for a community project. And the same with Knowlton, where so many extras, and so much great good energy came from.



The magnificent Ralph Cosham was flown up from Washington, DC, for a role in the film. He plays a critic in the art gallery scene. As many of you know, Ralph has become the voice of Gamache thanks to his wonderful audio book readings. Here's a photo with Nathaniel Parker (as Gamache), me, and Ralph. Such fun to be in the middle of a Gamache sandwich.



Michael, My Assistant Lise (pictured left in the make up chair), Her Husband Del and I were also extras! We asked if we could be in a bistro scene, since the bistro is the heart of the village, and we're all (well Michael and I) pretty lazy and it seemed a good idea to be able to sit inside with a drink, at the end of October. The bistro scenes were shot in Baie d'Urfé, Quebec.

STILL LIFE - CBC Television Interview

While there, Anna Asimakopulos of CBC Television interviewed some of us and produced an item on the making of Still Life into a film. [Here's the link to that piece.](#)

We just finished, on Saturday, filming the scene and it was such fun, and a little odd. Gamache (the magnificent Nathaniel Parker) and Clara (the beautiful Kate Hewlett) were sitting by the fire, nursing

drinks and discussing the murder, while the four of us were at a table directly behind them. Now, since Gamache and Clara's dialogue needed to be heard, and not our riveting and delightful banter, we were told to just mouth the words. Without sound.

Have you ever tried that? It's harder than it sounds (so to speak). One of the actors (Beauvoir) gave us a vital hint. Don't all move our mouths at once. Take turns. Like in a real conversation.

Well, that was helpful, but we still felt like idiots. But we were reassured that we didn't look foolish. We are all awaiting word from the Academy of our nominations.

Such fun performing opposite, and slightly behind, Nathaniel Parker.

I'm so relieved by the locations the producers and directors have chosen, by the actors, by the fact that most of them are reading ahead in the series and so have a sense of their character's development. By their commitment to making STILL LIFE extraordinary.

Fingers crossed!

I'll let you know when there's more news - but I can assure you that STILL LIFE will be broadcast in Canada, the US and Britain - and we hope in many other countries.

If you'd like to see other photos from the set, and updates, you can go to the [Film page of my website](#). You can also follow the latest news on my [Facebook](#) page.

November event

I'm hoping November will be a far quieter month. I have only one event - at the Salon du Livres in Montreal, Sunday, November 18th from 1pm to 2:30pm.

Hope November is a good month for you and that Hurricane Sandy hasn't been too horrible. Michael and I, along with the rest of the world, have been watching it - and thinking of all those in its path.

Be well, my friend.

Louise

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