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Louise Penny's May Newsletter

"No more hurting people."
- **Martin Richard, aged 8. Killed in Boston**

April

April has been, as always, that combination of glorious and cruel. Terrible events, both natural and unnatural, mixed with aching beauty. And kindness. And courage.

And love.

No more hurting people. I'll try if you will.

Malice Domestic

I'm in Washington, DC, right now at a crime writers/readers convention called Malice Domestic (great name, no?). I haven't been here for a few years and am SO enjoying meeting up with old friends, and also getting to chat with people I haven't met before. Malice Domestic is a simply wonderful convention where it's intimate enough to get up close and personal with some of your favorite writers. And readers.

I'm having dinner tomorrow night with Rhys Bowen, then breakfast on Friday with Peter Robinson, before interviewing him onstage. Peter is being feted as the International Guest of Honor.

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY Agatha nomination

And, THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY has been nominated for the Agatha Award for Best Mystery of the Year. The winner is announced on Saturday here at Malice Domestic. Here's the complete shortlist:

***The Diva Digs Up the Dirt* by Krista Davis**

***A Fatal Winter* by G.M. Malliet**

***The Buzzard Table* by Margaret Maron**

***The Beautiful Mystery* by Louise Penny**

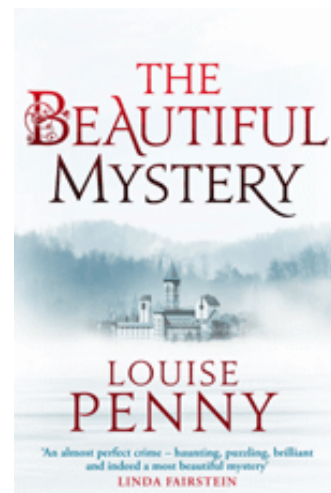
***The Other Woman* by Hank Phillippi Ryan**

I'd be beyond thrilled to win but I'll also be thrilled to stand and applaud any of the nominees. Such distinguished company.

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY has won the CBC Bookie Award

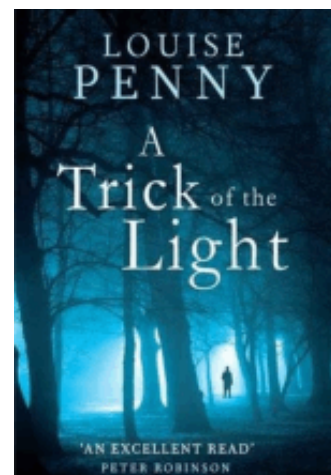


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And - speaking of awards - thanks to you, THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY has won the CBC Bookie Award as BEST CANADIAN BOOK! It's a competition decided by reader votes, and you came out in legions to defend the book and Gamache.

Thank you, merci, thank you.

I know winning the Bookie doesn't necessarily mean THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY was the best book (though I like to think it is), but it does mean you are the best readers! I am so grateful to you, and hope you had fun voting. And perhaps have started reading the other nominees.

May schedule

May is a fun and hectic month. After Malice Domestic I'll head to Montreal where I'll be taking part in the Sandra Goldberg Lecture. This is put on by the McGill Council on Palliative Care. I used to sit on the council, and volunteered for many years with palliative care, so this is an issue that means a great deal to me.

Kappy Flanders, the co-head of the Council and a personal friend, rang to ask if I'd agree to interview onstage their keynote speaker - Will Schwalbe.

Well, I couldn't agree fast enough - I suspect it was slightly unseemly.

I'm a HUGE fan of Will's book, and have given it to many friends. He wrote: THE END OF YOUR LIFE BOOK CLUB.

It's about accompanying his mother as she was treated for terminal cancer. But really, it's about how books and stories are a bridge to the living. To life. To imagination. Inspiration.

In their choice of books to read together, mother and son also chose intimate topics to discuss. They got to know not just the books, but each other.

It's a funny, smart, truthful book, that is not at all maudlin or depressing. Just the opposite.

As you can imagine, I'm looking forward to that. It's at the Leacock Building at McGill, at 5:30 on May 7th. You're welcome to join us. No ticket is necessary and it's free.

Later in May it's back to New York City for BookExpo America. I hear BEA is overwhelming. I'll be sure to pack my allies, the gummie bears.

At noon on May 30th I'll be one of the speakers at the Librarians Lunch and then that evening Ralph Cosham and I will go to the Audie Awards!

As you might know, Ralph has been nominated for a Audie Award for his recording of THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY and I'm going (with the permission of his wife and Michael) as his date. SO pleased for him, and for the book. I know many of you are huge fans of Ralph and how he brings the characters and setting alive. We'll let you know, via Facebook, how it goes. The Audies are the audio equivalent of the Oscars - so this is big.

More crossed fingers.

And then, if we survive the night, I've been invited to speak the next day, Friday May 31st, at the audio tea at BookExpo America. I might just move my lips and ask Ralph to provide the words.

Then home.

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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

Theakstones Old Peculiar Crime Writing Festival

On the longer-range, I did want to let those of you in the UK know that I'll be one of the authors at Harrogate this year. It's from July 18-21st. The Harrogate festival is actually called: Theakstones Old Peculiar Crime Writing Festival. When it was created a few years ago, they chose Harrogate in Yorkshire as the location because that was where Agatha Christie went when she 'disappeared'.

[Here's the link](#), if you'd like tickets or more information.

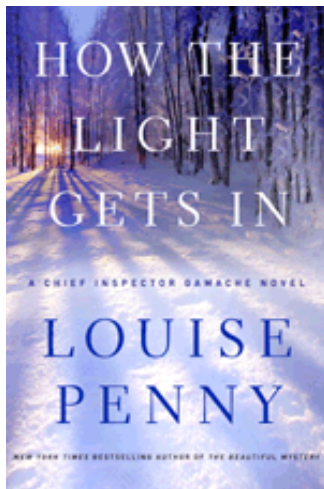
BURY YOUR DEAD - Quebec City guided tour

Speaking of travel - if you're thinking of going to Quebec City, there is now a guided tour based on BURY YOUR DEAD! It's put on by one of the top tour companies in Quebec. I've worked with them on this and it has my full support. So exciting to be able to walk in Gamache's footsteps (and to do it in summer!). [Here's the link for that](#).

Quebec's Eastern Township Tour

As well - My Assistant Lise (who created that remarkable hooked rug you see at the top of the newsletter - of our gardens in the country) has designed, with the help of Danny and Lucy at Brome Lake Books, a tour of Quebec's Eastern Townships, based on places that helped inspire locations in the books. If you'd like the free map, just drop by Brome Lake Books or the Knowlton Historical Museum.

Advanced Readers Copies prize draw



Now, if you're still reading this remarkably riveting newsletter, I have a reward for you. As a way of saying Thank You for all your kindness, your support, your cheering on the books and me, your pushing the books onto family, friends, strangers, police officers, judges, psychiatrists - well, I have some advance copies of the next book to give away.

HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN will be published on August 27th - but Minotaur Books, the publisher, has printed a few ARCs (Advanced Readers Copies) and we've copped 8 to give to you.

Now - to be honest - these books are being given exclusively to major booksellers, bloggers, critics....people who can read it and spread the word. Generate excitement in advance of publication. This is so critical to the success of a book.

But you've already done that, and have been doing it all year, for years.

So you've earned this thanks, and more.

Since it would be impossible for me to decide based on any competition, we will simply have a draw. Let the Universe decide who gets the ARC.

If you'd like to enter the draw, just write to My Assistant Lise and me at:

contact@louispenny.com

Please add your mailing address - and/or the address of whoever you'd like it sent to. We'll pull 8 names at the end of the month and get in touch with the winners - and also announce them in the June newsletter.

But I do ask that you continue shouting about Gamache and Three Pines, about Ruth and Clara and Gabri et al. Please keep spreading the word - I depend on you to let others know.

And while I know you've probably already done it, don't forget that you can now pre-order HOW THE

LIGHT GETS IN.

I'd also ask that if you do read the book, and post about it on social media, please, please, don't tell too much. My rule of thumb is that if it isn't on the dust jacket, it might be best to keep it secret. Perhaps just post your opinions....you loved it, you hated it. Well, actually, if you hated it, never mind...

I'm so excited about this book and can hardly wait until you're reading it!

Hope you have a wonderful May, and perhaps our paths will cross. I hope so.

Thank you so much -

Louise

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