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Louise Penny's February Newsletter

"Too many of us are not living our dreams because we are living our fears."

- **Les Brown**

New book news

Have you recovered from the holidays?

January, normally such a quiet month for us, has turned into an eventful one. Great events, I'm happy to say.

I've been longing to tell you the news about the next book - the one I've been working on. I've been deliberately, and maddeningly I realize, coy about the title and the content. Mostly because I didn't want to run the risk of spoiling HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN for those who haven't yet read it.

But the time has come to reveal a little information at least. And probably the crucial bit of information -

This book is called **THE LONG WAY HOME** -

And features Armand Gamache and Three Pines.

I know you might have been worried and wondering, and thought HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN was the end of the series. You've been very patient with me. I'm so happy to be able to tell you this much at least.

But, no more.

I wonder if I was a stripper in a previous life? Or perhaps practicing for the next one. Those thoughts are best not pursued.

As maddening as it might be, I really can't tell you more about THE LONG WAY HOME. Well, truthfully, I could. But I choose not to. Because, again, I don't want to spoil anything.... But the time will come (there she is again, the tease!).

And, you can even pre-order the book. [Here's the link.](#)

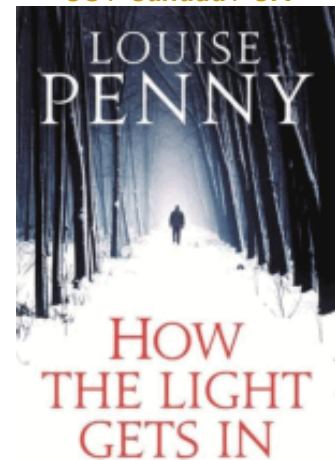
Drafts

The good news is, I've finished the first and second drafts and am well into the third draft of THE LONG WAY HOME. This might be the last one before I show it to my agent and editors.

And then - more drafts. This writing is very drafty. If I didn't keep

How The Light Gets In

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stripping.... Never mind.

Happily, Michael and I are off to the Jamaica Inn (the one in Jamaica, not the Daphne DuMaurier one in Cornwall) for 2 weeks in February. Hope to be finished the third draft by then, so can relax on the beach...and let the story float. It's the best stage in writing, I find. When the book is essentially done...and might actually be finished....but I can relax and open my mind and see if anything else occurs to me. But no problems, no structural, plot, character, pacing issues to be solved.

Bliss. On the beach.

Hope to have THE LONG WAY HOME in to my editors by the end of February. And then bite my nails and fight off the demons that whisper, and niggle and sometimes scream....it's merde! What were you thinking???

I suspect you have the same voice, sometimes. Horrible, isn't it? Still, the price of daring.

HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN - nominations

And January had brought more wonderful news!

HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN has been nominated for the Edgar Award, for Best Novel, by the Mystery Writers of America! This is the first time one of my books has been shortlisted for this award. Michael and I, and my great editor at Minotaur, Hope Dellon, and the publisher, Andrew Martin, and publicist, Sarah Melnyk - we're all overjoyed.

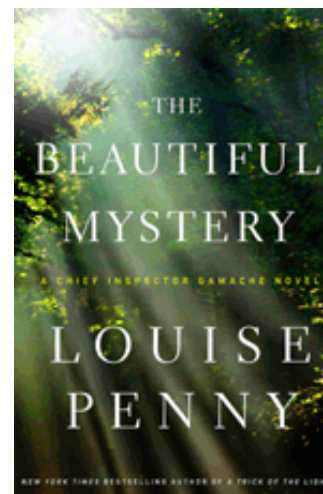
We'll be there, in New York City, May 1st, along with My Assistant Lise, and My Brother Doug, for the awards banquet. And a chance to celebrate with friends, many of whom were also nominated.

Here's the complete, and disconcertingly fabulous, [list on the Edgar website](#).

My wonderful agent, Teresa Chris, is coming from London for the celebrations - and you're invited. Black tie. Evening dress. Can you imagine how fun this is going to be? Who'd have thought it, years ago, while writing STILL LIFE on the verandah. And discovering Clara and Ruth and Myrna and Armand and Jean-Guy. That they'd take us to NYC, and the Edgars

More terrific news for HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN. It has been nominated for the Agatha Award for Best Contemporary Novel. This is a singular honour especially given the magnificent company. [Here's the link to all the nominations](#).

As well, it's been nominated for the Best Novel Set Outside the US, by the organizers of Left Coast Crime. [Here's the link](#). The whole list makes a wonderful, and diverse, reading list! Congratulations to all the nominees.



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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

HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN

I'll be at Left Coast Crime, in Monterey, California, from March 19th to 23rd as a Guest of Honor. Love to see you there.

How fortunate I am! And none of this would be happening without you. Your support, your company, your championing of Gamache and Three Pines. Your recognition that while the books are absolutely crime novels, they're not about death. They're about life, and choices, and belonging, and love. Sorrow and friendship.

I can hardly wait for you to read the next journey for Armand et al. THE LONG WAY HOME.

If you can continue to tell others about the books, I'd be so grateful. I know it must seem everyone already knows, but the fact is, so many don't. In Canada, in the US, in Britain and Australia and New Zealand. There's still so much growth possible - which is terrifically exciting.

The books have been translated into 28 languages, and we're just about to come out in Brazil.

Live Facebook chat

The magnificent Deborah Crombie is holding a live facebook chat, and she's asked if I'd join her on Wednesday, February 5th at 8pm EST. Besides being personal friends, I'm also a huge fan of her books (and THE SOUND OF BROKEN GLASS in particular). I could hardly wait to accept. You're invited too. Honestly, I've never done one of these before, so not sure how it works or what to expect, so we'll discover it together, which makes it all the more fun. Apparently you need to register for it, so [here's the link](#).

LE BEAU MYSTERE - published



And here in Quebec - where it's been bitterly cold (-32C) - LE BEAU MYSTERE was published at the beginning of January, and debuted at #1. For the first time. How amazing that feels. Knowing my friends and neighbours are reading and enjoying Gamache and the others.

Amazing, and more than a slight relief!

LE BEAU MYSTERE is the French translation of THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY (I'm sure that was clear to you, but wanted to just make sure). Flammarion Quebec found a fabulous cover. Here it is. Love it.

Well, I'm heading back to work - editing THE LONG WAY HOME. I want to make sure it's the very best book I can write....and worth your time.

With warm embraces,

Louise

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