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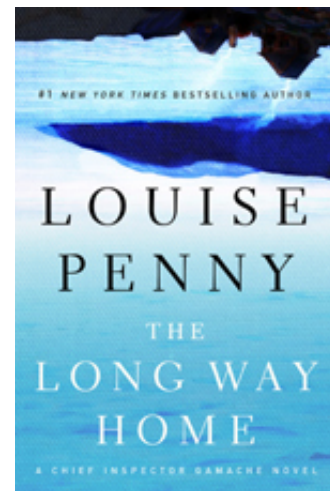


Louise Penny's June Newsletter

*"Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There's a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in."*
- **Leonard Cohen**



The Long Way Home US / Canada



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**How The Light
Gets In**
US / Canada / UK

I know you probably recognize that quote. It's the inspiration for the latest Gamache book, HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN. But the sentiment is, as you also probably realize, the inspiration for all the books. That in our flaws, in our faults, in our imperfections lies our grace.

Well a crack has appeared in our lives - another opportunity for light.

Michael

In late January of this year Michael was diagnosed with dementia. Not, it seems, Alzheimers (though he's on Aricept, the medication for Alzheimers, without any effect - except a runny nose, which is probably not what was meant to happen).

I can now talk at some length about dementia - not as compelling a dinner party topic as you might imagine. So I won't go on and on. It is pretty much what you would expect. The desperate sadness of losing someone we love in bits and pieces. Nancy Reagan called it, 'The long goodbye'.

The diagnosis wasn't a surprise. We'd suspected for a while. More than a year, really. And now, looking back, we can see that the signs were there even earlier. But so subtle, so easy to miss, or mistake, or hide away behind denial and compensation.

But by the time we sat in the doctor's office at the Memory Clinic of the Montreal Jewish Hospital, we knew. So the diagnosis was simply a formality. Still, not our favourite day.

We'd expected the loss. The sadness. The exhaustion at times.

What came as a complete surprise was the joy.

In some ways it's like being freed. And so we enjoy each and every moment. And we enjoy and love and appreciate our family and friends. People like Lise and Doug and Victor and Pat and Tony and Kirk and Walter and too many to name. We've never needed them more, or loved them more. They have been there for us, in every way.

Instead of being anxious and frightened and frustrated, Michael seems to grow happier by the day. There is something, after all, to be said for going gentle into that good night.

Our lives are very clear now. Simple. All Michael needs to know is that he is loved, he is safe, he is precious. And all I need to do is make sure he knows those things, not just in words, but in actions.

Dementia takes so many forms, but we appear to be exceptionally fortunate that he has left many of the cares of the world behind. We're also fortunate that I work from home, am younger and healthy and love him and can take care of him.

We know that not everyone has that. And so we count our blessings.

It will get worse. The bells are ringing. I know that. But Michael lives now almost completely, totally, in the moment. What a beautiful thing to see. What an inspiration. When I do too, when I don't look at what was and will never be again....when I don't look to the future and what that might bring....but when I live right now - then there's joy. Simple, pure, abundant joy.

This is heartbreaking. But through those breaks streams light.

When I can live in the moment I am as happy, as light-hearted, as Michael.

We wanted you to know, because there's a pretty good chance you know someone who is also living with dementia, of which Alzheimers is just one form.

We are pursuing ways we can be more involved in the drive for research into this epidemic of dementia and also to help, perhaps, lift some of the stigma that still attaches itself to the disease. Like cancer a generation ago. Like HIV/AIDS.

Time to let the mad uncle out of the attic.

So - that's the headline in our lives....but there are lots of other things happening.

How The Light Gets In - Paperback launch

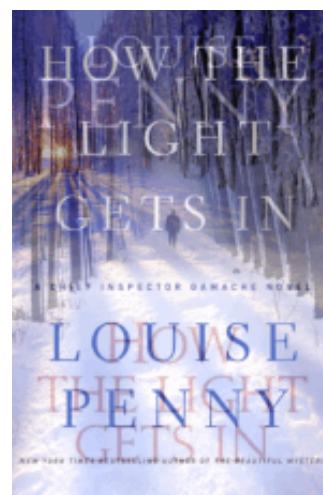
On July 29th the trade paperback of HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN will be launched. This is always very exciting, but even more so this year because I'll be doing a few events to celebrate the launch and Michael will be joining me.

Tuesday, July 29	NORTHSHIRE BOOKSTORE 4869 Main St. Manchester Center, VT 05255
7pm Wednesday, July 30	NORWICH BOOKSHOP 291 Main St. Norwich, VT 05055
7pm Thursday, July 31	LONGFELLOW BOOKS / held at PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY 5 Monument Way Portland, ME 04101
<i>All will be ticketed events.</i>	

Then, in August, the big event!!

August launch - The Long Way Home

THE LONG WAY HOME will be coming out on August 26th! I am so excited about this. There will be a pre-launch event put on by Brome Lake Books in Knowlton, on Saturday, August 23. If you'd like



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Here's the order of the **Chief
Inspector Gamache books**, from
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THE CRUELEST MONTH

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THE MURDER STONE**

THE BRUTAL TELLING

BURY YOUR DEAD

A TRICK OF THE LIGHT

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY

HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN

THE LONG WAY HOME

information about that, just contact [Danny and Lucy via email](#). Then I'll be heading out on tour. We don't have all the details nailed down yet - but I'll be able to let you know in the next newsletter. And on Facebook, as soon as it's all confirmed. It would be GREAT to see you at one of the events. We can celebrate!

THE LONG WAY HOME picks up where HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN left off.

Armand Gamache is now retired to Three Pines - happy, healthy, enjoying peace and quiet for the first time in his life. But it is short-lived. Clara Morrow, a friend and neighbour, asks for Gamache's help in finding her estranged husband, Peter. This sends Gamache, Beauvoir, Clara and Myrna on a journey deep into Quebec, and deep into the dark heart and troubled soul of Peter Morrow.

What they find will change them all, forever.

I can hardly wait for you to read THE LONG WAY HOME. You can pre-order it now from your local bookstore or [online](#).

Advanced Reader Copies - The Long Way Home book giveaway

My Assistant Lise and I managed to grab a few of the Advance Readers Copies (ARCs) of the book for you. We'll be giving away 2 a month for May, June and July.

The winners of the May ARCs of THE LONG WAY HOME are:

Liz D. and Barb G. - they've already been notified.

Congratulations!

If you win, please read THE LONG WAY HOME as soon as possible and then post about it everywhere (but no spoilers - when you read the book you'll see why I say that). On blogs, on Facebook. Twitter, chat rooms. All social media. Bookstores, restaurants. Tell everyone you know. The point of advance copies is to try to spread the word, and get people excited about the book. If you win an ARC, that becomes your job. Please.

Photograph competition - Advanced Reader Copies of The Long Way Home

Now, for the June ARCs, we have something different and fun. Send us a photo of you, or friends, reading the Gamache books and we'll put you into the draw.

Just send the email and photo to: contact@louisepenny.com in the subject line, please write: THE LONG WAY HOME and please put your complete address in the email. And don't forget the picture.

Here's a sample photo of three readers taking part in the Gamache virtual book club. They're trying to hide behind the books....but...weeee caaaan seee yooooou.



Gamache Virtual Book Club

Which brings me to the other exciting event leading up to publication of THE LONG WAY HOME.

The Chief Inspector Gamache Virtual Book Club.

We're going back over the series, from STILL LIFE onward. We'll be re-reading each book for two weeks, then moving on to the next. You can, of course, jump in at any point. You can participate, or just read the comments.

[Here's the link.](#)

New York



May was a fun month - we were in New York City for the Edgar Awards! What a great night. My brother Doug came with us, as did My Gorgeous Assistant, Lise. You can see her in the picture at the top of the newsletter, with Michael. And over on the left here, there's a photo of me, Michael and our wonderful literary agent, Teresa Chris, who flew in from London for the event. I was happy to see her, but felt since she'd come all that way, the least I could do was win.

But it was not to be. William Kent Krueger won for his terrific book, *ORDINARY GRACE*. Kent is a personal friend so I was thrilled for him. Fortunately, Teresa was having such a great time at the party I'm not completely sure she noticed I didn't win the Edgar. So I told her I did. Shhhh.

June is a quiet month, with the exception of a very exciting event for me personally.

Honorary Doctorate of Law

Bishops University, in Lennoxville, Quebec, is giving me an Honorary Doctor of Law degree.

Dr. Penny is in the house. I'm hoping it comes with a prescription pad, but I have my doubts.

The graduation ceremony is on Saturday, June 7th. I plan to make my speech short. I believe that's the best that can be said of it. I might mention my Edgar win. Or perhaps not.

Writing the next Gamache book

And, I've begun writing the next book. My hope is to finish the first draft by the time *THE LONG WAY HOME* is published at the end of August. Then I'll spend the autumn on subsequent drafts. I plan/ferverently hope to deliver it to the publishers by Christmas.

I have to tell you, writing has been such a comfort. Three Pines and the company of Clara, Armand, Gabri et al have been a refuge. A place to rest my heart and focus my brain.

How lucky I am.

Michael says hello and sends embraces. And smiles. As only he can smile.

We're fine. And sometimes F.I.N.E. Hope you are too.

Louise and Michael and Trudy
XXOO

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