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Louise Penny April Newsletter



"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us" **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

LONDON

Well, winter is just about over – and the great news for Michael and me is that it is definitely over since we've de-camped Quebec and moved for 5 weeks to London!

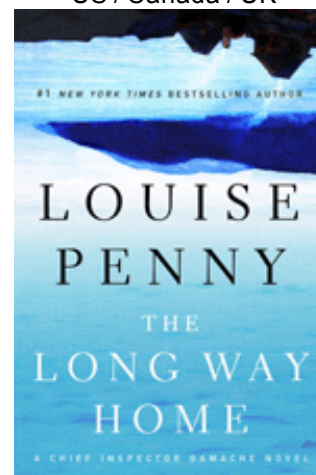
We adore London. Michael's sister Carol lives here and we've both spent a lot of time walking the streets and sitting in the parks and eating Afternoon Tea. This great city is in our bones and on our hips.



We've rented an apartment, what the Brits call a 'flat', just around the corner from Carol on Lower Sloane Street. We can walk to the Thames, and the Physic Garden, and the Sloane Club. For Afternoon Tea.

As you see, all roads in London lead back to clotted cream, including a wonderful one my UK publishers, Little, Brown, threw for Michael and me upon our arrival. It was at the Corinthia Hotel. Delish!

The Long Way Home US / Canada / UK



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How The Light Gets In US / Canada / UK

You can join us in London if you like – just follow along on

[Facebook](#). Bring an umbrella....

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

The other wonderful news is that I've finished the copy edit (where all the grammar and inconsistencies are checked by a professional and double checked by my editor and me) – so THE NATURE OF THE BEAST is one more step closer to your hands. This is the eleventh Armand Gamache novel. Incredible. It'll be out on August 25th, but you can pre-order now.

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST is set in Three Pines, where Armand and Reine –Marie are now living. It's about many things, including the power of storytelling. The stories we tell others, and the ones we tell ourselves.

If you want to learn a little more (but not too much) about the book, just [click here](#).

INSPIRING BOOK LOCATIONS

And, leading up to releasing the BEAST into the world on August 25th, my US publisher, Minotaur Books, is revealing the places that have inspired the fictional locations in the books.

You'll get to visit the actual shops and meet the real people who make up my community and now the community of Three Pines, which is also your home.

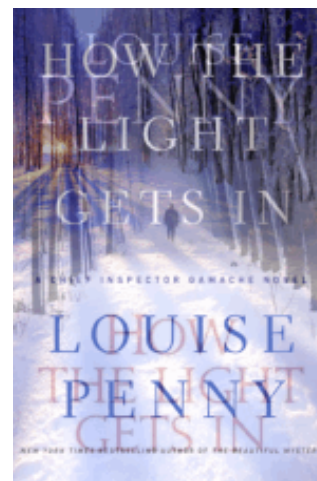
We'll be rolling out the inspirations every two weeks beginning April 6th. Here's the setting and the book it's taken from - but you'll have to visit www.gamacheseries.com to see the Real Places of Three Pines. Here's a list of the places we'll hear about, the book they're from, and the date of the reveal . . .

April 6: Still Life/Arts Williamsburg

April 20: A Fatal Grace/Hadley House

May 4: The Cruellest Month/Boulangerie

May 18: A Rule Against Murder/Manoir Bellechasse



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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

THE LONG WAY HOME

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

- June 1:** The Brutal Telling/General Store
- June 15:** Bury Your Dead/Literary & Historical Society
- June 29:** A Trick of the Light/Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal
- July 13:** The Beautiful Mystery/Monastery of Saint-Gilbert-Entre-les-Loups
- July 27:** How the Light Gets In/The Champlain Bridge
- August 10:** The Long Way Home/Baie-Saint-Paul
- August 25:** The Nature of the Beast is published!
- August 31:** The Nature of the Beast (TBA)

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST - AUDIO BOOK

You might be wondering about the audio version of THE NATURE OF THE BEAST. We're still absorbing the news that the magnificent Ralph Cosham has passed away - a loss on so many levels, but it also means there will need to be another voice for the Gamache books. No one, of course, can take his place, but we're looking for someone who can build on what Ralph has already created. The search is on, but so far nothing has been decided, except that there will definitely be an audio version. I'll let you know more as soon as I know anything.

Thank you for your patience.

THE CRUELLEST MONTH - RADIO PLAY

Interestingly, two of the real places that inspired settings in the Gamache books are in the village of Georgeville, on Lake Memphramagog. This month, as a fundraiser for the local churches, they're putting on a radio play adaptation of THE CRUELEST MONTH, which is set at Easter, in the month of April. Now, it's not really a radio play since it won't be broadcast to anyone. But it's in the nature of the old-fashioned radio plays way back when.

[Here's more information on that.](#) I know they'd love to have you there. Among the actors will be Danny McAuley, who runs Brome Lake Books and is a dear friend. He'll be voicing Armand Gamache!

The production will be on April 10th and 11th. We'll still be in London – indeed April 10th is Michael's 81st birthday. We hope to celebrate with his sister and her husband, as well as our nephew, Adam, and his girlfriend Lindsay, who'll be staying with us. Michael wants to take everyone to lunch at the Portrait Gallery, one of our favourite places.

FRENCH CRIME FICTION FESTIVAL

March has been a hectic, but very fun, month. Lots of work on the manuscript for THE NATURE OF THE BEAST – wanting to get most of it done before coming across to London. And then, just at the end of the month, I went off to Lyon, France, for a crime fiction festival – the [Quai du Polar](#). *Pictured above top left.*

My agent, Teresa Chris, and I hopped on the Eurostar, changed trains (and stations!) in Paris, then

headed south to Lyon. What a blast! My US publisher, Andy Martin, was also an invited guest. My Quebec publisher, Louise Loiselle of Flammerion Quebec, was there as was my Spanish publisher and, of course, my publisher in France. So it was a real party. And a huge amount of work. But such fun!!

One of my events was at the Musee des Beaux Arts in Lyon. They asked me to choose one of the masterpieces and talk about it. Here's the one I chose. I think you can guess why....



Portrait of a Woman Suffering from Obsessive Envy, also known as The Hyena of the Salpêtrière

APRIL

Our friends and neighbours, Pat and Tony are housesitting with Bishop while we're away. We'll be returning in late April (in time to pay taxes!). The London Book Fair is on this month too....so a wonderful combination of work and leisure in this great city. Seeing lots of friends, lots of colleagues. Everyone is treating Michael as an honoured Elder, and he's glowing.

Am well underway thinking about the next book. Making notes. Reading background. Will begin the first draft on May 1st.

Thank heaven I love what I do. I think I would anyway, but I have to tell you, a big part of my enjoyment is knowing that you are enjoying the books. When I write, I love knowing you'll read it.

And again, I want to tell you how very, very grateful Michael and I are for your support, both personally and professionally.

I had a bit of a breakthrough a couple months ago. I realized I was living in anticipated and near paralyzing grief as our lives became smaller and smaller and Michael's ability to do things for himself shrank to near zero.

I was just so sad. And tired.

But then, in a sort of epiphany, it struck me that instead of lamenting what was gone let's take advantage of what's left. He's not sinking into darkness, he's enjoying all the light that's left.

And so we went to Jamaica, and we came to London, and we'll be doing as many fun things as we can, while we can....and then when we can't anymore, well, we'll have fun talking about them and all the people and places that have made this time so wonderful.

Michael isn't busy dying, he's busy living. And so am I.

We now choose our company carefully – as much as possible only being around people who accept, who make us feel good about ourselves. Who are positive and don't point out the obvious difficulties now or in the future, but who find all the good things, the lovely things, in our lives.

Gentle, kind, supportive, loving, caring people. Like you. And I have to say, there are so many of them in our lives.

With thanks – and hope you're enjoying London with us!

Louise and Michael

(To see the photographs used in this newsletter in a larger size [click here to see them via my website.](#))

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