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Louise Penny's October Newsletter

Dear First name

"A writer is a person for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people"- Thomas Mann

I love this quote - I'm presuming it was tongue in cheek. Writers often give the impression of immense agony, and therefore, immense heroism and importance. But I have to say, I see writing as a great privilege. And a stroke of huge luck on my part. Absolutely, it's difficult. But what job isn't? I'm on a two month tour right now, going all over North America, and every day when I leave the hotel to do an event I pass the housekeeper and let her know the room is ready to be cleaned.

She smiles at me. I smile at her. And we both know who has the more difficult job.

And if I didn't know that, and how lucky I am, I'd be the most pathetic person in the hotel. In the city. In the nation. What good is great good fortune if I don't recognize it?

And this month all the hard work, and good luck, comes to fruition.

Bury Your Dead is finally out!

It felt so far off for so long and then, boom, the publication date suddenly arrived a few days ago. I've never had children, but I wonder if that's how expectant parents feel. I wonder if I can blame the stretch marks on the books? Oh, why not.

It's been excruciating waiting for BURY YOUR DEAD to come out. Perhaps because I'm so thrilled with it. I wanted you to read it. I wanted, and still do, to see what you thought and felt. Those of you who have read it already will probably understand when I say it was a difficult book to write. Not only because of the three interwoven storylines, but mostly because the events and the people haunted me for months after finishing the manuscript. It was very hard to turn this book off in my head.

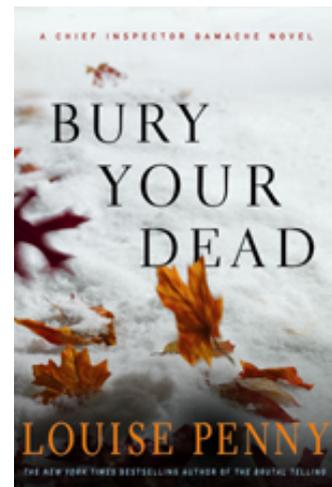
Bury Your Dead - news and reviews

This makes the reception of BURY YOUR DEAD all the sweeter. Like a literary sigh. And, perhaps, a dance. Yes, actually, definitely a dance. I feel like dancing.

Linda Lyall, my web and newsletter designer has come up with a fresh new face for the website, to mark the launch of BURY YOUR DEAD. Just [click here](#) to see it.

I'm sure there are people who won't, and don't, like the book but so

Bury your Dead US Edition



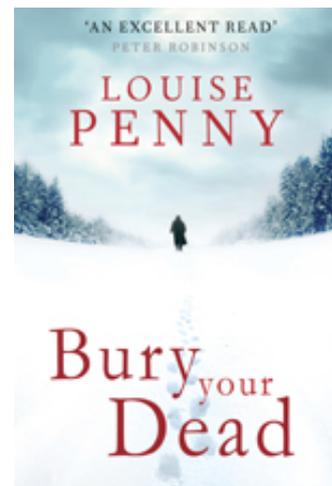
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far the reception has been wonderful. Starred reviews, an IndieNext pick, featured title, Book of the Month.

In fact, **People Magazine gave Bury Your Dead four out of four stars and declared it their 'editor's pick'!** Here's part of their review:

Her beautifully elegiac sixth book interweaves three story lines while plumbing the depths of Gamache's grief. The result is sophisticated and moving - her best yet.

BookPage in the US named it their Mystery of the Month for October. The reviewer ended his piece by saying:

Bury Your Dead has received more pre-release praise than any suspense novel in recent memory; I was a little skeptical at first, but I am here to tell you that it is well deserving of every word. And then some!

BookPage sends its recommendations to half a million reader, so you can understand why I'm thrilled. If you'd like to read the entire review, just [click here](#).

Bury Your Dead - a bit about the story

BURY YOUR DEAD is set mostly in Quebec City and follows Chief Inspector Gamache as he struggles to come to terms with a recent raid he led, that led to the deaths of some of his officers and the wounding of others. Including himself. The events, the voices, the sounds, the smells all follow him as he tries to find peace and quietude in this glorious, gracious, old city. His search for peace takes him to an obscure English library in the centre of the walled city. The Literary and Historical Society. There, surrounded by leather-bound volumes, comfortable sofas, wooden bookcases, Armand Gamache does his research into an event that defined Quebec and Canada. The one hour battle, the massacre, on the Plains of Abraham that ended the Seven Years War and gave Quebec to the English once and for all.

The French general made dreadful mistakes. A series of them. That led to the slaughter and the loss.

For Gamache, long a student of Quebec's past, history has come alive. He now understands how that general must have felt, as he saw what was happening, and knew finally the dreadful mistakes he's made.

Je me souviens. It's the motto of Quebec. I remember.

And that's Gamache's anvil. What he drags through the beautiful, peaceful, snowy streets. His memory.

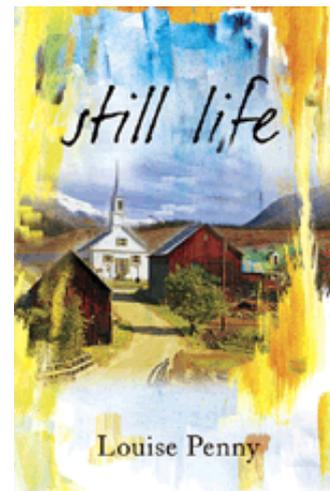
But even more history is about to come alive, in the form of a dead body in that quiet library. An eccentric archeologist is murdered there. His one passion was finding the body of Samuel de Champlain - who founded Quebec 400 years earlier. Champlain's body mysteriously disappeared hundreds of years ago.

Incredibly, they'd lost the founder.

Generations of Quebeckers have tried to find him ever since. And now this archeologist is murdered. Could he have found Champlain at last? In the basement of the Anglo institution? Had this 400 year old mystery produced yet another body?

Armand Gamache is asked to quietly help discover the truth. And in

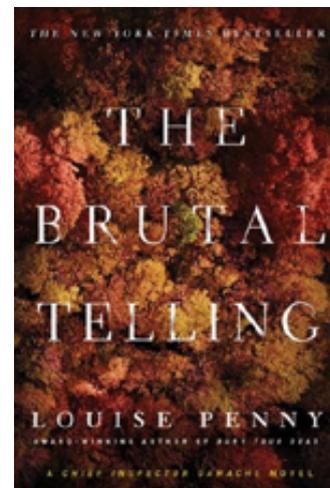
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doing that he must find his own truth. Come to terms with his own past. Bury his own dead.

I hope you like BURY YOUR DEAD. And if you do, I hope you'll tell others about it. Perhaps you can comment on blogs, or go to Amazon or the Barnes and Noble site and write reviews. (unless of course you don't like the book in which case, never mind.) And perhaps you can talk to friends and strangers. People at the next table. Sitting beside you on the bus. The psychiatric nurses as they take you away. Tell everyone. I'd consider it a great favour.

If you do tell others, or review Bury Your Dead I'd really appreciate it too if you could be careful not to tell too much about the story. It's very hard with this book, but if you could try that would be wonderful.

Quebec City event - Bury Your Dead

I want to mention too that I'll be in Quebec City, at the Literary and Historical Society, for the Quebec launch of BURY YOUR DEAD. The event will be broadcast live on CBC Radio, after the broadcast is over there'll be a launch cocktail party and I'll do a short reading. Everyone is welcome. It will be on **Thursday, October 28th, from 4 to 6 in the afternoon**. Come on by, say hello, get a book signed and see where Gamache investigates the crime. And visit one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Hope to see you there!

The Hangman - novella for literacy

But BURY YOUR DEAD wasn't the only one of my books launched in September. I was asked to be among the first Canadian writers to contribute a novella for literacy. The project is called GoodReads and the books are aimed at adults looking to improve their reading skills - to help show them that literacy is a fabulous tool, but it is also a great joy.

The novella I wrote is called THE HANGMAN and is written at those reading at a grade 3 level. It features Gamache and Beauvoir, and is set in Three Pines. If you're interested I believe you can order it through your independent booksellers internationally.

Still Life / En plein coeur - French publication

And - the French translation of STILL LIFE is finally out, and went right on to the bestsellers lists...and is climbing! What a relief. I'd spent so much time hoping it would finally come out in the language of the characters themselves I didn't think at all about the response when it did! Suppose people in Quebec hated it? Or didn't 'get' it?

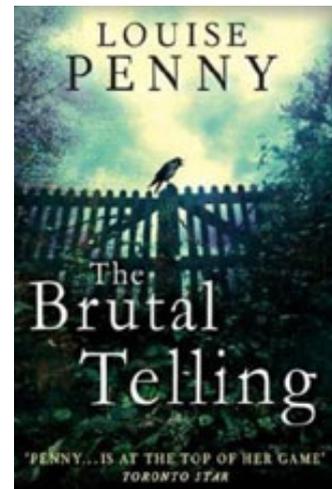
The book is called EN PLEIN COEUR and if you'd like to hear an English interview I did, along with the magnificent Michel Saint-Germain who found and translated the books, please [click here](#). It's for the terrific CBC Radio programme, C'est La Vie, with host Bernard St-Laurent.

Loss

September was a very odd month. A month of contrasts. From excruciating joy to terrible pain. Two friends died on exactly the same day.

Jacques Lague was finally called to glory on September 13th, at 5:30am after many days in palliative care. He was a kind and wise and loving man. And his wife Louise keeps the light on beside his chair at home and visits him (no quotation marks). And is struggling with her own grief, of course. It is a terrible hole.

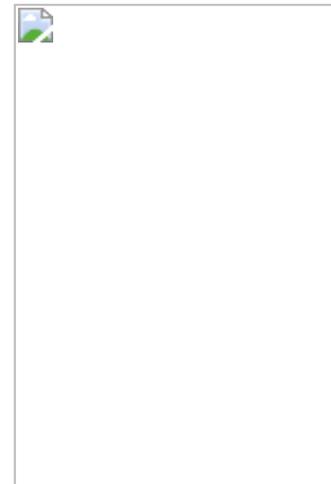
The other loss was a complete shock. And many of us in the crime



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Cruelest Month US edition

writing and reading community are still feeling the waves. The near complete disbelief. David Thompson, one of the owners of MURDER BY THE BOOK in Houston died suddenly. He was 37. He left behind so many friends and co-workers and family members. He left behind so many men and women he helped. He left behind so much potential. So many dreams. So many plans.

But mostly he left McKenna behind. His loving wife of only two years. They met at the store, wooed at the store, loved mysteries, loved crime novels, loved books, loved the customers. And finally, always and forever, they loved each other.

All my memories of David have been eclipsed by one single image. Of him talking about McKenna. He was so happy.

Book tour

And now I'm off on a two month book tour, across North America and off to England. Michael gets to stay home, at least at first, to care for Trudy. And then our friends Gary and Cheryl will house sit.

I won't give the whole long list of where I'll be this month, but if you're interested, please click here and it'll take you to the [Events page](#) of my website.

It would be just wonderful to see you at the events. Always a joy to see friends.

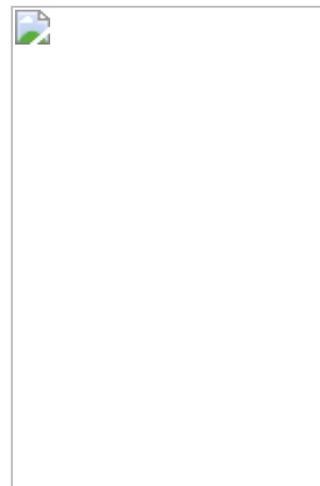
And if you'd like to follow the tour, you can join me on the [blog](#). I try to write everyday, but that isn't always possible.

Thank you for all your support, your kindness, your generosity of spirit in celebrating with us.

In the photos above there's one of my brother, Doug, and behind him Michael. In our living room at home. Doug was visiting, just at the time I'd finished the manuscript for BURY YOUR DEAD. Both lovely men sat before the fireplace, and read it. I wish I could tell you how that felt. It felt as though love and kindness had made itself at home, in our living room. I hope you feel the same way, as you read the book. And are both enthralled, but also comforted by it.

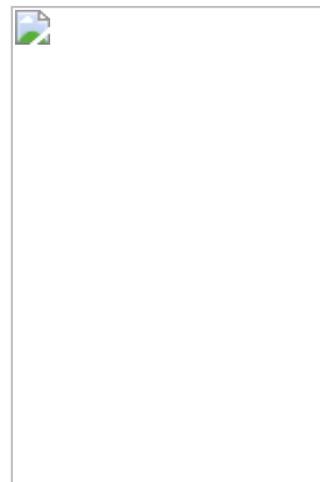
I hope you enjoy BURY YOUR DEAD.

Louise



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