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Louise Penny's April Newsletter

Dear First name

"watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it." - Roald Dahl

This quote was given me by Linda Lyall, who manages my website and this newsletter. She lives in Scotland and visited the Glasgow Science Centre this past week with her two children, Christopher and Jennifer. That quote was written on one of the walls. How perfect it is! Thank you, Linda.

Spring with winter weather

Happy Spring. Though, frankly, you'd hardly know it by our weather. Still have feet of snow, and below freezing temperatures. Though every now and then we have a day that would take your breath away. When you can smell spring. Which, here, often smells like...well...merde. But still, after many months of stepping outside and snorting snow flakes, even that smells great.

On the professional front, it's been a month of ridiculously good news.

Bury your Dead - Dilys Award



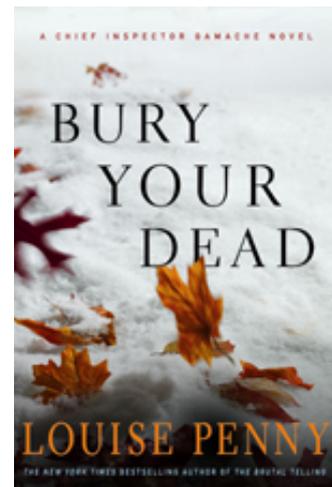
BURY YOUR DEAD has won the Dilys Award in the US. You can see the award itself. Every year the design is different, inspired by the book that won. The Dilys is particularly important in crime writing circles because it's voted on by the people who run mystery bookstores across North America. So it represents both critical and commercial success - the sort of 'sweet spot' most of us aim for.

Besides, I'm very aware that were it not for the Independent Mystery Booksellers I would have no career. The Gamache books probably would have stopped after three. The IMBA were the ones who discovered the books, and promoted them. So the fact that the Dilys is handed out by the IMBA is even more meaningful to me.

Thank you mystery booksellers!

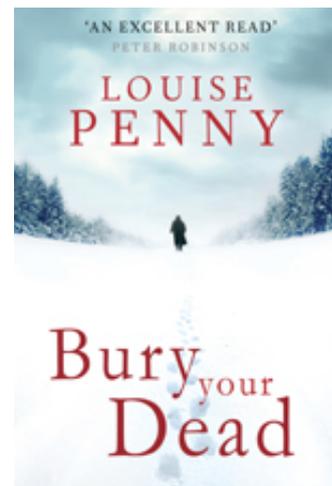
Unfortunately, I couldn't be in Santa Fe for Left Coast Crime, where the Dilys was handed out. But they asked the nominees to send an acceptance speech - in case. The magnificent Barbara Peters, who

Bury your Dead US Edition



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runs Poisoned Pen in Phoenix, accepted for me and read my speech:

I wish I could be here to look you in the eyes so you'd know how deeply grateful and overjoyed I am. But the truth is, I'd probably just blubber and jump for joy and make almost no sense. Barbara, would you mind jumping around a bit, for me? In a dignified sort of way, of course.

Thank you to the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association for the Dilys Award. Thank you for what it represents. Handselling. Not downloading. But actually pressing a paper and ink book into a customer's hand. Knowing the name of the book, knowing the name of the author. Knowing the name of the customer.

Now there's an art worth celebrating. Bookselling. What a very beautiful gift that is.

Thank you for this amazing award. Especially given the fabulous books and writers who were also nominated. Bribery does pay off. Tell your children.

Thank you too, to the most wonderful editors in the world, Hope Dellon and Dan Mallory. And to Minotaur Books, who have seen that a small mystery with very little blood and no sex, set in Canada can have something to say. What a terrific publisher they are!

I think the Dilys is especially precious to me because BURY YOUR DEAD is the sixth book in the Gamache series. I'm always afraid of falling into a routine, or getting lost as so many other magnificent crime novels are published. I have a lot of fears. Of not being good enough, of not writing the books you deserve to read. Of staggering when I should be leaping. But now, when I'm afraid, I can look at this marvelous award you've given me, and feel maybe I can do it.

BURY YOUR DEAD is, in many ways, about second chances. I've been given a second chance in life, and I am beyond happy to be taking it in your company.

I also want to thank the gorgeous Barbara Peters and say that she is drunk at this very moment and will almost certainly be arrested before the night is out. She is also a very lovely woman, and a great friend.

Merci, tout le monde.

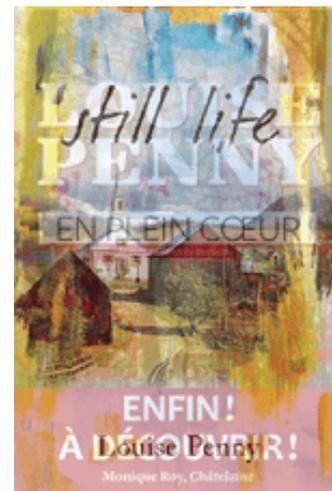
It really is an award to be cherished.

And, on top of that, BURY YOUR DEAD came out in the UK and debuted on the extended London Times bestseller list! The first of my books to do that. We are thrilled. Huge thanks to Dan Mallory and the team at Little, Brown/Sphere. Lots of celebrating.

TV films

Chief Inspector Gamache, Clara, Gabri, Ruth and the others might soon be coming to television. After many years of turning down all offers, my agent and I have finally agreed to sell the rights to a production company. The problem in the past was actually two-fold. I felt there was a lot to lose and not a great deal to gain if the books were filmed. So much could go wrong. Bad casting, poor scripts, cheap production values. Producers who didn't understand what the books were actually about. The other problem was that most of the offers were to turn the characters into a weekly television series. So they'd buy the rights to the characters, and could do with them as

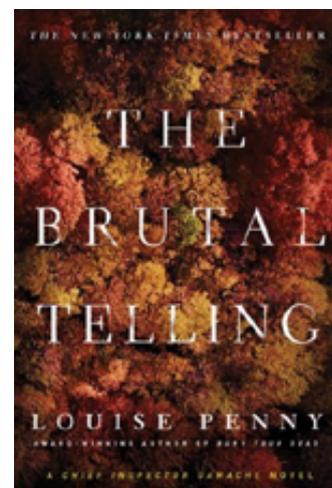
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they wish - ala Bones and Dexter.

I'd never agree to that, so between the two concerns we simply thanked everyone who was interested, but declined.

Until now. The difference is that this particular production company kept coming back. Kept adjusting their offer, kept calling and telling us how passionate they were about the material. Finally, after speaking with them, I began to believe they really did feel strongly. And not only 'knew' the material, but 'felt' it too.

Still, it was six months or so of back and forth. Finally, we've agreed to two made-for-TV films, of the first two books, STILL LIFE and DEAD COLD/A FATAL GRACE. We'll see how that goes, before agreeing to any more. They'll be filmed in Quebec, of course, and I'll be one of the Executive Producers.

Still - I have to say, we are far, far from it actually happening. So much has to fall into place. I'm very hopeful, but not counting on it.

But I did want you to know - we're a big step toward seeing the books turned into films. Casting ideas???

A TRICK OF THE LIGHT

And, I have news about the next Gamache book. It is set in Three Pines and called A TRICK OF THE LIGHT. It will be published in the United States and Canada on August 30th. And a few months later in the UK and Australia/New Zealand.

You can actually pre-order it now, at independent bookstores, through [IMBA booksellers](#) and of course [Barnes and Noble](#), and [Amazon.com](#) and [Amazon.ca](#).

Facebook fan page

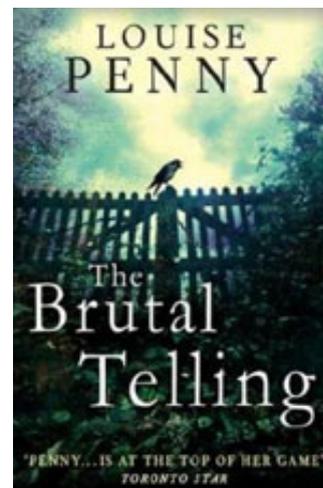
In other news, I've decided that I really should switch my personal Facebook page over to become a fan Facebook page. All of you who have already 'friended' me, don't worry - you don't have to do anything. It will all happen automatically.

I'm hoping this will be a seamless process - and I don't think it will change our actual relationship at all. I'll still be there, responding, replying, begging for favors. All the things you've come to expect. But, thanks to the publishers, we're also hoping to have some contests, like giving away Advance Readers Copies (ARCs) of A TRICK OF THE LIGHT. We're hoping to have the ARCs out by the end of April.

So - if you go to Facebook and "[friend](#)" me, when the time comes we'll make the move to a fan page together. As I say, I hope to make it fun by holding some special contests, to say "Thank you".

Teresa Chris

My wonderful literary agent, Teresa Chris, in the UK now has her own website. If you're looking for an agent you can't do better than Teresa. Just visit her site and see if you think it's a fit. She is always open to discovering new authors. Indeed, she's made it a specialty. [Click here](#) to visit her website.



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Win an Advanced Reader Copy of A TRICK OF THE LIGHT

And, speaking of ARCs and contests - here's your chance to win an advance copy of A TRICK OF THE LIGHT.

As those of you who follow the [blog](#) know, I'm now writing the first draft of the next book...I write a year in advance. So, A TRICK OF THE LIGHT is book 7 in the Gamache series, and I'm currently writing Book 8.

I started at the beginning of March and am averaging a thousand words a day. Right now I'm at 31,552 words.

Now, here's the contest. For an advance copy of A TRICK OF THE LIGHT I'd like you to guess what my word-count will be at the end of April.

Please send the email to: contact@louispenny.com, and put the number you guess in the subject line, so it will be easy to find the winner. The two people who get closest to the actual word-count will be sent ARCs of A TRICK OF THE LIGHT.

Good luck. You'll be just about the first people in the world to read the book - and I hope the ARC will prove a collector's item.

In the meantime, don't forget, you can pre-order the book. Always a good idea, if you want a first edition hardcover.

And please (here comes the requisite begging) please, tell others about the series. I am so genuinely grateful to all of you who have told family, friends, strangers in bookstores about the books. Thank you!

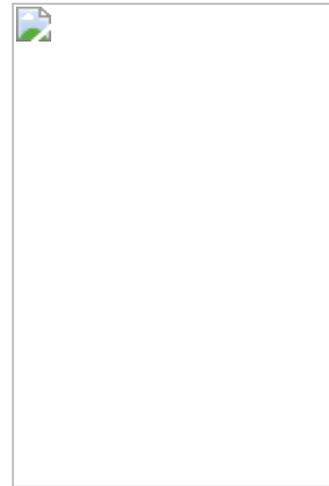
Vive Gamache café au lait mugs

I also wanted to remind you that Vive Gamache café au lait mugs are available. Danny and Lucy, at Brome Lake Books will sell and ship them to you, in exchange for money. If you're interested, just email them at: blb@b2b2c.ca They're really lovely people.

April events

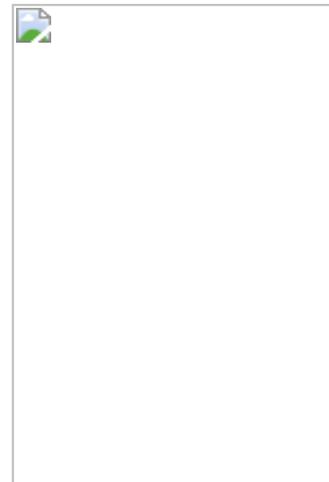
This is a month of writing and some events.

April 16th and 17th	Quebec City for the Salon du Livres
April 28th to	Malice Domestic Crime Readers and Writers conference, Washington, DC. Where BURY YOUR DEAD is nominated for the Agatha Award for Best



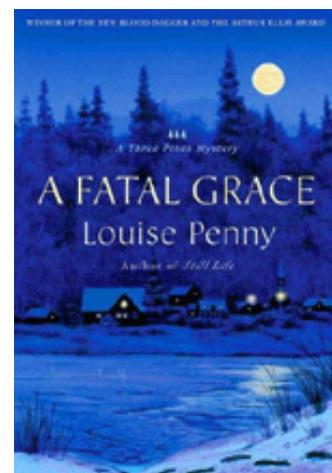
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Sous La Glace A Fatal Grace / Dead Cold



May 1st	Novel
May 2nd	Festival of Mystery, sponsored by Mystery Lovers Bookshop, Oakmont, PA
May 3rd	Bradford, PA - One Book, One Community Celebrating Still Life

I try not to accept any invitations while I'm writing. As you see, it's as successful as my attempts not to eat any more gummi bears. Or hot cross buns.

But next year I might be more successful. I belong to the Scarlet O'Hara School of Life - tomorrow is another day.

Thank you for being so supportive of me, and the books. Michael says hi.

Louise

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