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Louise Penny's July Newsletter

"Not all who wander are lost."
- **JRR Tolkien**



Summer

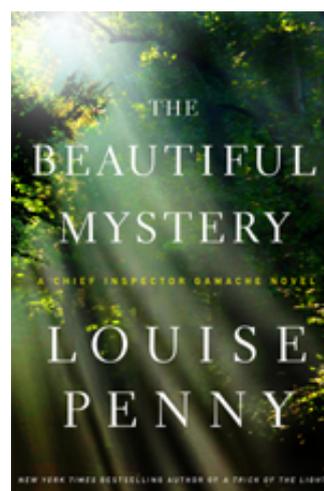
I hope you're having a great summer so far (all ten days of it!). Here in southern Quebec it's been the regular late spring/early summer - sizzling hot, then cold enough to start the fire! Up above, on the far left at the top of then page, there's a photo of my office. Where I write. It was taken just a few days ago. You can probably see that the fireplace is on.

I've taken over the cottage next door since writing at home is becoming more and more difficult. Too many distractions. Too many temptations.

My Assistant Lise is not only a gifted artist, great assistant, wonderful friend. But, damn her, she's also a magnificent gardener....so all I want to do is sit in the gardens and admire.

So, I've had to flee to the office next door. Though, as you can see, it's not exactly a hardship.

The Beautiful Mystery US / Canada / UK



Click if you wish to order

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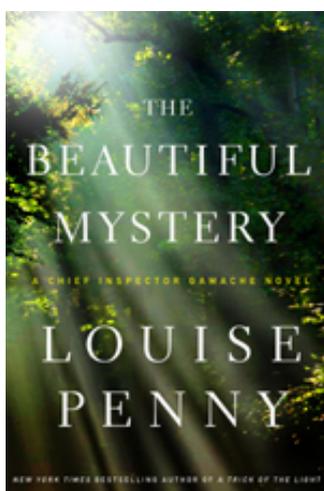
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Booksellers Association

August 28th



August 28th 2012

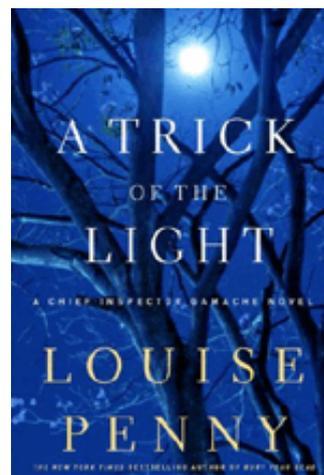
The countdown begins in earnest now. Less than two months before the launch of THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY. This is the eighth Chief Inspector Gamache novel, and it comes out in the US, Britain and Canada on August 28th.

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY has been named one of Publishers Weekly top summer reads (before even being published!), and has already earned two starred pre-pub reviews.

★ Publishers Weekly

"Excellent....a captivating whodunit plot, a clever fair-play clue concealed in plain view, and the deft use of humor to lighten the story's dark patches. On a deeper level, the crime provides a means for Penny's unusually empathic, all-too-fallible lead to unearth truths

A Trick of the Light US / Canada / UK



Click if you wish to order

[Barnes & Noble.com](#)

about human passions and weaknesses while avoiding simple answers."

★ Booklist

"An entire mystery novel centering on Gregorian chants (whose curiously hypnotic allure is called the "beautiful mystery")? Yes, indeed, and in the hands of the masterful Penny, the topic proves every bit as able to transfix readers as the chants do their listeners. It begins when the choir director of a monastery in a remote corner of Quebec is murdered, his skull bashed in with a rock. Outsiders are not allowed inside the monastery's walls, where 24 cloistered monks pray, make chocolate, and sing—though a few years earlier, a homemade recording of their chants was released and created a sensation, helped along by the inaccessibility of the artists. Now, with the murder, the doors of the monastery are opened to Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and Inspector Jean-Guy Beauvoir, charged with finding a killer among a group of largely silent monks, who, it quickly becomes apparent, are engaged in a civil war over their music, but one "fought with glances and small gestures"—until now, when rocks have been added to the arsenal. P. D. James, of course, has made a career out of taking her sleuth, Adam Dalgliesh, into closed worlds to investigate murders, and while Penny follows that formula, she layers her plots more intricately than does James, this time adding an entire contrapuntal plot concerning Gamache, Beauvoir, their relationship, the secrets each conceals, and the demons each continues to fight. "The deepest passions could appear dispassionate, the face a smooth plain while something mammoth roiled away underneath," Gamache thinks, expressing not only his frustration with the case but, inadvertently, the coming crisis in his relationship with Beauvoir. Of course, there is always something mammoth roiling away beneath the surface of Penny's novels—but this time the roiling is set against the serenity of the chanting, producing a melody of uncommon complexity and beauty."

Audio book

For those of you interested in the audio book, Ralph Cosham has just finished the recording. He wrote this email to me on the day he completed it:

Dear Louise,

You really are a naughty person. You have created the literary equivalent of OxyContin. There I was, working my way to what I thought would be a dramatic denouement, and BAM, you drop the....It's not fair. Seriously though, it is a beautiful book and I hope I did it justice.

All the best,

Ralph

Yes - I edited the letter!!! Don't want to give it all away. You'll just have to read the book. Mwahaha.

And believe me, Ralph has done THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY justice.

Word-of-mouth

Now, I'm going to ask for your help. And please, feel no obligation....but as the release date gets close, it just becomes more and more critical to tell others about the books. And, for those of you who've read THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY, please post about it, put up reviews, spread the word.

I can't express how important word-of-mouth is to the success of a book and a series.

Amazon.com
Amazon.ca
Amazon.co.uk
 ABA American
 Booksellers Association

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

Having said that, I'm also keenly aware that the success of the Gamache books to date can be laid, with gratitude, at your feet. The publishers and marketers can only do so much. If readers don't tell other readers, then the book will fade away.

You've kept Armand Gamache and the others alive. And not just alive, but thriving. And you've given me the life I've dreamed of since I was a child.

To write for a living.

Thank you, thank you.

If you can re-double your efforts as we speed to release date, that would be great. Specifically, that would mean pre-ordering, hitting the 'like' button at the Amazons. Posting reviews....(unless you didn't like the book, in which case, please don't bother...) Just, getting the word out there, really.

If you do write a review can I ask (aka: beg) you not to give too much away? Both about the plot and what happens with the characters? I know most people don't put in 'spoilers' on purpose, but if you can be careful, I'd really appreciate it. Thank you.

I can hardly wait for you to get your hands on THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY. And less than two months to go!

Advance Readers Copies - June contest winners

As you know, we've been giving away advance copies of the book in the newsletters for a few months now. Last month our contest was to complete this line:

'For God's sake Clara,' yelled Myrna. 'I'm begging you. Don't...'

We had hundreds and hundreds of great endings - from hilarious to very touching. Indeed, we had so many great ones, Lise and I couldn't decide. We narrowed it down to a shortlist - then, frankly, we chose at random.

Congratulations to the winners! They're:

Kathryn in Port Coquitlam, BC for: *'For God's sake Clara,' yelled Myrna. 'I'm begging you. Don't destroy that painting...what are you thinking...it's amazing...'*

and

Mary in Marion, Indiana...for: *For God's sake Clara,' yelled Myrna, 'I'm begging you. Don't paint Ruth in the nude! We already see way too much of her and, honestly, should Three Pines be subjected to viewing her questionably-placed duck tattoo?'*

Thank you everyone for your entries. I read them all, and loved it! How creative you are.

July, Advance Readers Copy - competition

For this month's contest, because time is getting short and the advance copies really are meant to drum up buzz....**I'm asking you to tell us what you'll do to promote THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY, if you win one.**

To enter put "ARC Contest" in the subject line. And please include your mailing address, [click here](#) to be entered into the draw. Good luck!

I feel so mercenary as I write this, because I know how much you've already done....but as the publication date approaches, it just becomes critical to get the word out, and lift THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY into view, beyond the sea of other wonderful books being published.

I need your help.

A TRICK OF THE LIGHT - June audio book winners

As you might remember, in the last newsletter, we also gave away two copies of the audio for A TRICK OF THE LIGHT. That was a completely random draw.

The winners are:

Philip in Ottawa and Michael in Laughlin, Nevada

They've already been notified....congratulations.

A TRICK OF THE LIGHT - nominated for two major literary awards

More good news about A TRICK OF THE LIGHT. We learned in June that it's been nominated for two major literary awards in the United States - the Anthony and the Macavity awards, for Best Crime Fiction Novel!

Book excerpts

Now, we have another couple of fun things for you - a sort of 'thank you.' It's an excerpt from THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY! The first few pages (we figured that was better than the last few pages).

You can click on this link: [THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY excerpt](#)

And there's also an [excerpt from A TRICK OF THE LIGHT](#), which will be out July 3rd in paperback!

Designing the book cover - THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY

As well, the fabulous David Rotstein has let you into a secret - how the cover for THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY was achieved. [Here's the link to that...](#)

So, a lot of things for you to chew on this month!

Facebook - photo competition

I also wanted to mention that over at the Facebook page, we're holding contests all month,

One of the contests is for a photo of your 'sacred place'. This is in anticipation of the publication of THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY, set in a monastery. I'd really love to see a photo of the place that calms your spirit and frees your soul. Not necessarily a religious place. For instance, one of my sacred places is our garden. Really, a place of peace. You can also vote on your favorite photo, and the winner will get a signed, framable, print of the cover of THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY. Here's the direct [link for the photo contest](#).

That's happening over at [Facebook](#), along with other contests.

Tour dates

And - dear Lord, I almost forgot to tell you the news - we have the US tour schedule!

Here are the dates, and locations. If you plan to come, I'd LOVE to see you - but it's not a bad idea to call the store to confirm the location.

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Aug 25 | Saturday, pre-launch event in Knowlton, Quebec put on by Brome Lake books. For more information, just contact Danny and Lucy at BLB - 1-450-242-2242 |
| Aug 28 | Tuesday, Chicago, Anderson's Bookshop, evening launch event, off site |
| Aug 29 | Wednesday, Cincinnati, Joseph Beth, Cincinnati store, Rookwood Pavilion 7pm |
| Aug 30 | Thursday, Denver, Tattered Cover 7pm |
| Aug 31 | Friday, San Francisco, Kepler's Books 7pm |
| Sep 1 | Saturday, San Francisco, Book Passage 4pm |
| Sep 3 | Monday, Scottsdale, AZ, Poisoned Pen 5pm |
| Sep 4 | Tuesday, Houston, TX, Murder By the Book 6:30pm |

- Sep 5 Wednesday, Atlanta, FoxTale Book Shoppe 7pm
- Sep 6 Thursday, Madison, CT, RJ Julia 7pm
- Sep 7 Friday, South Hadley, MA, Odyssey Bookshop 7pm

I really hope to see you at one of the events. Not long now - though I don't want to wish away the summer.

Thank you for your company - such an exciting time.

Louise

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