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Louise Penny's September Newsletter

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.." - Aldous Huxley



THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY

At last!

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY is out in the world. On book shelves, on ereaders, and held in hands. There's a pretty good chance you have it already, and for that I want to thank you.

I think you know how excited I am about this book, and the prospect of you reading it. A year or more in the writing....and it will probably take a day or two for you to read it. But perhaps you'll find reason, or desire, to pick it up again one day and re-visit the quietude, the silence, the peace of the abbey of Saint-Gilbert-Entre-les-Loups.

And revisit the murder that took Chief Inspector Gamache and Inspector Beauvoir, of the Sûreté du Québec, to that remote monastery. Where they met the monks, the murder and music so glorious it became known, through the centuries, as "the beautiful mystery".

I feel as though you've walked with me, all these months, these years. It's wonderful to know this is a moment we share. Having said that, I'm keeping the frequent flier miles for myself. You can have the airplane peanuts. You're welcome.

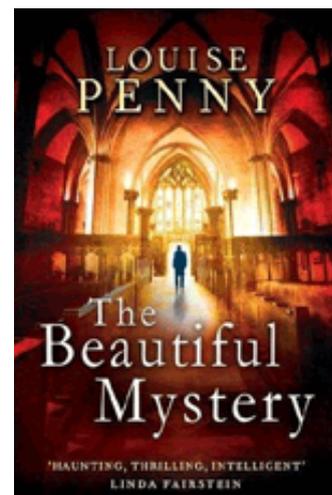
It's too early yet to know how well the book is doing - whether it will make bestseller lists. I suspect I shouldn't care - but the truth is (and don't tell anyone), I do care. It would be amazing to appear once again on the New York Times list - perhaps even for a few weeks running. And the Globe and Mail list in my native Canada. And other lists. I suspect it's like an athlete, and this is my Olympics. It genuinely is amazing to compete....but the goal is always to be the best.

But whatever happens, there's huge comfort in knowing with THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY (and indeed, with all the books), I could not have done better.

And now The Beautiful Mystery has been published, I get to imagine you holding the book, reading about the monks, about the chants, about Gamache trying to tease the truth out of a community of men who have spent lifetimes concealing how they really feel. He must get silent monks to speak. And he must, in the great silence, see that while they are not talking, these men are still communicating.

So far, the reviews have been fabulous. Here's a sampling:

The Beautiful Mystery US / Canada / UK



Click if you wish to order

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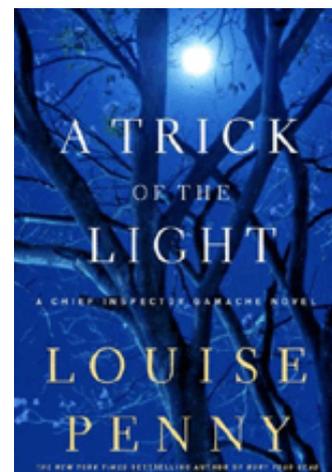
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A Trick of the Light US / Canada / UK



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New York Times

Penny writes with grace and intelligence about complex people struggling with complex emotions. But her great gift is her uncanny ability to describe what might seem indescribable - the play of light, the sound of celestial music, a quiet sense of peace.

People Magazine (Editor's Pick, 4 out of 4 stars)

With enormous empathy for the troubled human soul-and an ending that makes your blood race and your heart break-Penny continues to raise the bar of her splendid series.

The Winnipeg Free Press

With The Beautiful Mystery, there's no longer any doubt: Penny is Canada's best contemporary crime writer, among the best in the world, and one of our best writers, period.

The Charlotte Observer and Raleigh News & Observer

Penny shows us the joy of the cloistered life as surely as she has shown us the joy of village life...for fans of the series, the resulting bombshell in the characters' lives is as much like murder as anything ever delivered by a blunt instrument.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

...from murder, Penny - who melds prose at once expressive and restrained with a keen understanding of human emotions - creates a novel that earns its title, a book that shines with the grace and compassion that stamp her work.

The Seattle Times

For the reader, meanwhile, there's a final beautiful mystery to contemplate: How does Penny consistently write such luminous and compassionate books?

[Barnes & Noble.com](http://Barnes.com)

Amazon.com

Amazon.ca

Amazon.co.uk

[ABA American
Booksellers Association](http://ABA.org)

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

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY has been chosen as an **IndieNext Pick by the Independent Booksellers Association in the US** and has won the **Earphones Award from AudioFile magazine** (Kudos to the magnificent Ralph Cosham, who read the books).

Tour

And now, I'm in the middle of a US booktour. As I mentioned in earlier newsletters, I'm for the most part giving Canada a miss because honestly, I've toured Canada extensively for 8 years, coast to coast, and up and down. And loved it. But I'm a little fatigued and decided to concentrate on the US this time. Though I will be at the Vancouver Writers Festival in October, doing a reading while the choir of Christ Church Cathedral provide Gregorian Chants.

The tour for THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY actually began on August 25th with a wonderful pre-launch party organized by Danny and Lucy at Brome Lake Books in Knowlton. More than 200 people came out to the community centre to celebrate. Danny wrote a chant inspired by the books, and he, Lucy and family and friends sang it. Then I spoke and signed books.



Joseph-Beth Booksellers
in Cincinnati

Since then I've been to Anderson's Bookshop in Naperville (just outside Chicago), to Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Cincinnati, to Tattered Cover Bookstore in Denver, and last night to Kepler's Books in Menlo Park (just outside San Francisco).

When I do an event I take a picture from the front, so that you get of sense of what it's like. It's an amazing feeling, to face so many smiling people. Fills my heart.

Here's the rest of my tour schedule:

For event information, tickets etc - click on the highlighted bookstore links to visit their websites.

Sept 1st (today)	5pm - Book Passage - Corte Madera, California
Sept 3rd	5pm - Poisoned Pen - Scottsdale, Arizona
Sept 4th	6:30pm - Murder by the Book - Houston, Texas
Sept 5th	7pm - Foxtale Bookshoppe - Woodstock, Georgia
Sept 6th	7pm - R.J. Julia Booksellers - Madison, CT
Sept 7th	7pm - Odyssey Bookshop - South Hadley, MA

For more details, please [click here](#) - it will take you to the "Events" section of my website. If you can't make it to an event, you can follow the tour through my [Facebook](#) posts, or the [blog](#).

Such fun having you along - and thanks for packing light!

I'm going to enlist your aid yet again - to spread the word. Please tell lots of people about THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY. And if you read and like it, please tweet, blog, facebook comment, post reviews on Amazon and other sites, or even, if you dare, tell people face-to-face. It would be wonderful if this book, and the entire Gamache series, found its way into new hands. If more and more readers discovered it. For that, I need you. But I also want to thank you, with all my heart, for all you've done in spreading the word so far.

Thank you, my friend, for your help, at this critical and exciting time - and your help in the quieter times. I so appreciate it.

Onward.

Speak soon - hope you're thriving.

Louise

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