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Louise Penny's June Newsletter

"We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."

- **Plato**

Three Months

Less than three months and HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN will be out. It will be launched on August 27th. It feels like it's almost here, but then reading that sentence just now, three months sounds so far off.

Happily, most of us have summer in between! And just as the days get noticeably shorter and the nights longer - the light gets in.

More about HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN

Lots of fun news to pass on! As you know, I've intentionally kept details of HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN quiet, but now the time has come to let some information out. Though I will be very careful not to spoil anything.

The first bit of news is to finally answer the question: Is it set back in Three Pines and the answer is - yes! In fact, the village and the people there play such a key role that over at Facebook I've been posting excerpts - description of Three Pines - from the previous books as a reminder of how this little village became a big character. I'll continue to do that every Thursday, on [Facebook](#), until August 27th.

On June 10th I'll be putting up an excerpt from HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN on my Facebook page. One of the early chapters, to give you a taste.

Book trailer

And, speaking of that, the wonderful David Rotstein at St Martin's Press (David has designed the last few covers for the books, including the latest) was inspired after reading HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN to create a video trailer. That (I have learned) is a short film that captures the feel, the tone, of a book, without giving away plot or character points. Not the same as a movie trailer, that has more content - a book trailer speaks, as it should, to the emotions and senses.

I LOVE what he's done. [If you'd like to see it, click here.](#)

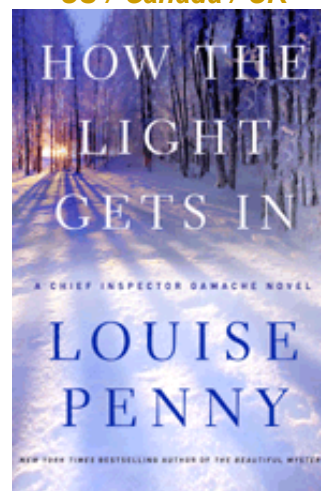
Advance Reader copies - May winners

Last month we gave away eight Advance Readers Copies (ARCS) of HOW THE LIGHT GET IN. The winners are:



How The Light Gets In

US / Canada / UK



Click if you wish to pre order

[Barnes & Noble.com](#)

[Amazon.com](#)

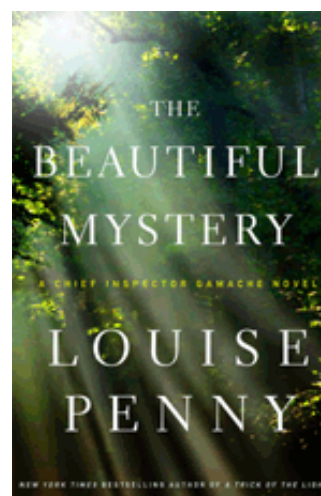
[Amazon.ca](#)

[Amazon.co.uk](#)

[ABA American Booksellers Association](#)

The Beautiful Mystery

US / Canada / UK



Click if you wish to order

Jackie, Granit Springs, NY

Jenny, Tiverton, Devon

Tina, Thomaston, ME

Carol, Kingston, ON

Nicole, Everett, WA

Barbara, Kelowna, BC

Kiki, Tallahassee, FL

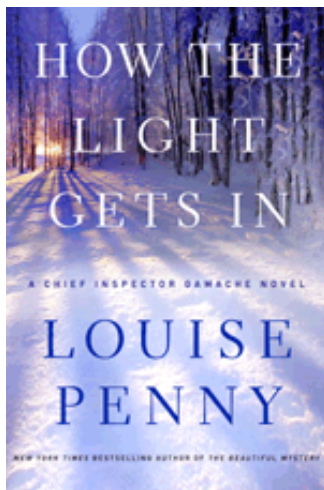
Deloris, Houston, TX

ARCs are a limited edition early run of the book, given to booksellers and critics and opinion makers, for the sole purpose of stirring up interest. Getting a buzz going (or on, if the ink isn't quite dry). In fact, the publisher is beginning to get amazing feedback on the first wave - Here's part of what **Micheal Fraser, of Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Cincinnati**, had to say about HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN:

I must say this completely captured me from the first page. It's the feeling you get that makes reading (and by extension selling) books one of the most sublime experiences in this life... How the Light Gets In is so satisfying, so well-crafted with such complex characters struggling with equally complex lives that you feel privileged to get this insight into these people. And you get to return for a brief time to the village of Three Pines and the residents thereof... It was one of the best books I have read this year!!

Thankfully, the other booksellers are equally enthusiastic. And I didn't even have to sleep with many of them. Just joking...I slept with them all.

Advanced Readers Copies prize draw



Each ARC is very important, and meant to be a powerful tool for the success of the Gamache et al. So I'm counting on you, if you win an ARC, to please read it and spread the work. But - but - I'm also counting on you not to spoil it for others by giving too much away.

And, we have the last batch to giveaway! Ten this time.

If you wrote in last month and didn't win, no need to write again. Your name will automatically be put in this months draw. I promise. If you didn't write in last month - just send along an email to: contact@louisepenny.com

My Assistant Lise (patent pending) will help me with the draw. Since in our opinion, you all deserve an early copy, there is no way we can choose a winner based on merit. So it will be a blind draw.

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

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY

HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN

Good luck - and thank you!!! And please, please keep spreading the word about the Gamache books, and HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN specifically. I cannot tell you how important that is and how grateful I am for all your efforts in telling others.

If you haven't pre-ordered the book, consider doing that. The hardcovers go quickly. THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY kept selling out last fall, and went into nine printings before Christmas.

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY - Wins the Agatha Award

Which brings us to the news about THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY -

It won the Agatha Award for Best Mystery in the US! The award was given out at the crime convention, Malice Domestic, in Washington DC in early May (pictured top left). I think you can imagine how happy I am! I bounded to the stage and thanked everyone who voted for it. And, specifically, I thanked four people who almost certainly did not, but whom I consider good friends - the other nominees. I'd have been happy to applaud, had they won. They are: Margaret Maron, GM Malliet, Hank Phillippi Ryan and Krista Davis. All wonderful writers and worth discovering, if you haven't already.

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY - nominated for the Anthony Award

Now, to add to the joy, THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY has just been nominated for the Anthony Award, for Best Crime Novel in the US! The full list (also a great reading list) is:

Dare Me - Megan Abbott

The Trinity Game - Sean Chercover

Gone Girl - Gillian Flynn

The Beautiful Mystery - Louise Penny

The Other Woman - Hank Phillippi Ryan

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY - top ten crime novels of the year

And - Booklist, one of the most influential publications in the publishing world, has named THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY one of the top ten crime novels of the year, (their year goes May to May), saying:

Penny's latest begins when the choir director of a monastery in a remote corner of Quebec is murdered. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and Inspector Jean-Guy Beauvoir are charged with finding a killer among a group of largely silent monks, whose recording of Gregorian chants has made them famous. Roiling human passion set against the sublime serenity of the chants produces a melody of uncommon complexity and beauty.

[click here to see this article on the Booklist website](#)

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY will be coming out in paperback in the US, Canada and the UK in July. In the US and Canada it will include an excerpt from HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN.

BookExpo America

I've just returned from New York City and BookExpo America. My first time there. My God, it's like a crack den for BookHeads. "This is your brain on books"....well, I'll tell you, my brain was spinning and my heart soaring.

Paradise. If, that is, Paradise was chaotic, thrumming with conversations and people. If Paradise was an overload of information, of options, of authors.

Wow!

And to make it better, I had just the BEST time!

I flew in last Wednesday. Minotaur and St Martin's Press had organized a private dinner with

booksellers at the boathouse in Central Park. Pinch me. They'd invited about 60 booksellers and two authors - me and one of my closest author friends and a GREAT writer, Lisa Scottoline. We each gave a very brief talk, then moved among the tables of booksellers, who, like librarians, are the high priests of publishing. Lisa and I paid homage.

Then next day there was the Librarians Lunch. I feel myself deeply moved when I think of the work librarians do. Not, God knows, for money. Not for power or influence. But for love of books, of the written word, of story telling. And while they might not be librarians for the power, it is one of the most powerful jobs in society and certainly in publishing.

And, as any writer will tell you, librarians can make a career. Without the support of libraries, Gamache and Three Pines and all the characters would have died. It took librarians telling patrons, pressing the unlikely volume of a mystery set in a remote Canadian village, into hands that gave the series life.

I had a chance to stand in front of hundreds and hundreds of them on Thursday at lunch, and thank them. As I thank them now. I also got to meet one of my personal heroes...Bill Bryson. He was also speaking at the BEA Librarians Lunch.

What a blast!

Audie Awards - Ralph Cosham wins for narrating *The Beautiful Mystery*

Then that evening People Magazine invited me to their cocktail party at Ink 48 hotel, (I am pictured above with Andy Martin, my publisher, with the New York skyline behind us). But I could only stay a short time before Ralph Cosham and I were whisked away to the New York Historical Society and the Audie Awards, where *THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY* was nominated for Best Audio Crime Novel in the US. We were also asked to present three awards, which we did.



The Audies were a glittering affair, and my head is still swimming from all the activities. It was like stepping into a fantasy film. Feted in New York City. And on the arm of the magnificent Ralph Cosham. Swoon.

And - to top it all off - Ralph won for narrating *THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY*!!! Here he is, accepting his award and being smooched by a grateful author. I am so happy for him!

On Friday, I had breakfast with my wonderful editor, Hope Dellon, then back to BEA to sign Advanced Readers Copies (ARCs) of *HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN*. It was bedlam, as people lined up for hours to get one. I felt awful when the ARCs ran out.

Later, Ralph and I recorded a conversation to be included in the audio book of *HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN* (for you fans of Ralph and the audio versions).

Then back to BEA for the huge Audio Tea. As you can see by the photo, the place was packed. They'd invited only four authors to present - Janis Ian, Brandon Sanderson, Bill Bryson (yes, I'm getting a restraining order. Well, one of us is) and moi.

Events and News

And now we come to June.

One of the many fun events is that Tours Voir Quebec begins the Gamache/Bury Your Dead Walking Tour of Quebec City on June 8th. I've worked with them on this, and the wonderful Literary and Historical Society (housed in the Morrin Centre in Old Quebec) has opened its doors, to be part of the tour. I hear from people who took the preliminary tour, following in Gamache's footsteps, that it was extraordinary. I'm SO pleased. [Here's the link if you'd like to find out more.](#)

And, if you happen to find yourself in Quebec's Eastern Townships this summer, consider dropping by [Brome Lake Books, in Knowlton](#), to say hi to Danny and Lucy and pick up a map My Assistant Lise (patent pending) created with them, showing locations that have inspired scenes and settings in the

books.

In other news, we've decided to take the plunge and rent a flat in London for a year! But - we won't be spending the whole year there, but dividing our time between UK and Canada. How amazing is that? A genuine dream come true (yet another one).

So, if you follow me on [Facebook](#), cream teas on the way for June and July! Pack spanx and spandex.

Harrogate - Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival

In mid- July, I'll be a guest at Harrogate. That's the crime writer's festival in the small village in Yorkshire, where Agatha Christie hid out when she needed time to herself.

I mention it now, in case any of you want to come. It promises to be amazing. [Here's the link:](#)

Hope to see you there!

I plan to catch my breath for the next few days, and do a laundry (I think Bill Bryson might have drooled on me - unless that was my own when I saw him, or Ralph. Never mind.). What a life. I'm enjoying every moment of it. Such a shame, and a waste, not to.

Have a wonderful month, and perhaps our paths will cross. We're putting together the book tour for HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN - I'll let you know when it's firmed up. Hope it comes close to you and you're able to make it. Love to see you.

In the meantime, thank you for all your support, of me, and the books. And for spreading the word about HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN. Getting closer....

Be well, my friend.

Louise

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BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS



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