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Louise Penny's September Newsletter

"A good book should leave you... slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading it."

- **William Styron**

That's how I'd love you to feel as you read HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN. Following the fortunes of Gamache, Beauvoir, Clara, Gabri et al.

Not watching their actions, but joining them in Three Pines, in Montreal, on the investigation. In the bistro, the B&B. As they search for the truth. And then face it.

HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN

Finally, oh finally, dear friend, the book is published! I know I feel I've lived several lifetimes waiting for this moment.

It makes my heart soar to know the moment has come. HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN is out. The latest Chief Inspector Gamache is in your hands.

And now your job begins. To bring them alive. That's what I love about us, our relationship. We're a team. I write the words, you life them off the page. You give life to Gamache, Clara, Beauvoir. To Ruth and Gabri and all the others.

And now they're released into the world.

To add to the excitement, HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN has already gone into its third printing, after less than a week on sale.

I am so thrilled about HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN. The culmination of so many story threads, so many themes, so many plot points. When I began writing THE BRUTAL TELLING five years ago I knew exactly how this book would end.

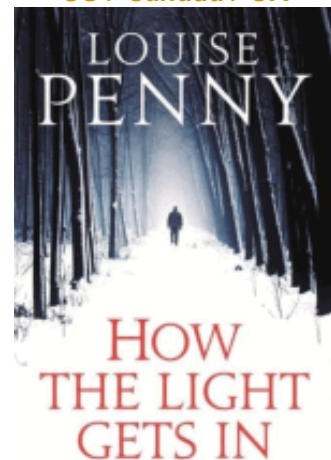
Everything has been driving toward those final pages. It was so important to me to do right by the characters, and you. Who've invested so much time (and more) in this community. I needed this book to be something you'd savour, and I'd be proud of.

I hope HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN is all you wanted and more. To be honest, it's the book I wanted and needed to write. Gosh, I hope you feel the same way. If you don't, don't tell me. Shhhh.

Now, I have a huge favour to ask. If you read the book and like it, could you tell others about it? Shout it from the rooftops? Spread the word on social media and at parties and at work? Post on Amazon and other review sites. If you work in a library, could you tell patrons? Or in a bookstore, perhaps suggest it to clients. Have it tattooed on your forehead.

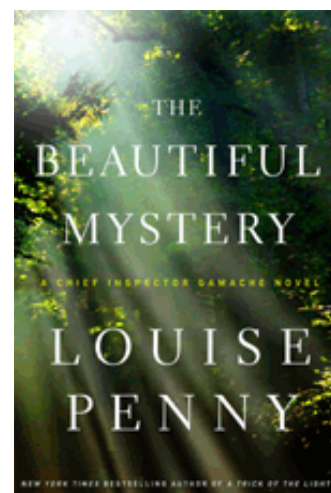


How The Light Gets In
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Having you champion of the series makes all the difference. To be fair, I can only say so much before it sounds, and is, self-serving. But an honest rave from you makes all the difference.

Thank you, thank you for all you've done so far - and a further thank you on account, for your kindness and support in the future.

The only other thing I ask is that if you do talk about it or post about HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN, you not give too much away. I'd hate for some of the plots and resolutions to come out and spoil the read for others. But I know you'll be both supportive and sensitive.

I'm out on book tour now. The fact is, at this stage I might not have to tour to promote the book - but I tour so that I can look you in the eyes. Give you a hug. And thank you. From my heart. For embracing these characters, this setting. For caring about them as I do.

BOOK TOUR



As I say, I'm on the road (again). Touring can be pretty crazy. If you feel inclined to follow a lunatic, just [click here and go to my Facebook page](#). I post every day.

Basically my days are: get a wake-up call startlingly early. Shower. Hope I haven't lost my brush (tooth or hair) somewhere (again). Get coffee and fruit. Hop a ride to the airport. Fly to the next city. Do media, then an event in the evening where I speak, take questions, sign books, get back to the hotel and bed.

Then start again. Hence: crazy.

Two weeks. Essentially a different city every day. I'm just touring the US this time. I suspect some Canadian readers are wondering why, and I hope you're not annoyed. Believe me, I'm not turning my back on the very first people who supported Gamache et al. But the truth is, I spent the first five or six years going back and forth across Canada. And loved it. Often with Michael.

Now it's time to concentrate on the US. To be honest, I just don't have the energy anymore to do both. But I'll definitely be back in Canada for a future book! And I do have an event at the Central Reference Library in Toronto on Sept 17th at 7pm. I'll be interviewed on stage by Margaret Cannon, the crime writing critic for the Globe and Mail. It's free, but you'll need a ticket. [Here's the link](#).

Now, back to the tour for HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN. It started last Saturday with a pre-launch party put on by Danny and Lucy of Brome Lake Books and held in the community centre in Knowlton, Quebec. You can see the photo at the top. Then I headed to Milwaukee for the official launch. What a par-tay!

Thank you all who came out. So exciting to celebrate with you.

Then onto events in Vernon Hills and Naperville, outside Chicago. My

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**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



publisher, Andrew Martin, of Minotaur Books, flew from New York City to join me onstage in Denver. Huge fun!! From there I went to San Francisco and Corte Madera. All packed to over-flowing. Such great audiences, such a grateful author.

Wow.

I have an event tomorrow night with Barbara Peters at Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, AZ. Then off to Austin and BookPeople, Houston and Murder by the Book, Delray Beach and Murder on the Beach. Then up to Raleigh, North Carolina and the Quail Ridge bookstore, McIntyre's in Pittsboro and finally Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill.

I circumnavigate the US. The Lewis and Clarke Literary Extravaganza and Foodfest.

I realize I've sort of whizzed over the details - but if you're interested just click [here](#) and go to the [Events page of my website](#) where you'll find all the information and phone numbers.

These book tours can be exhausting - but you give me energy. What a difference you make! Though I really must tell those of you in North Carolina....I'm doing the whole tour out of a carry on. Two weeks...no laundry. Be warned...

REVIEWS

HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN has had an amazing reception. And the reviews are beyond anything I could imagine, and I imagine pretty big.

★ It's was voted one of the top ten books of the month by the American Library Association

★ The Christian Science Monitor named it one of the Best Books of the Month and had this to say: Penny writes with a moral rigor and depth that set her Chief Inspector Gamache mysteries apart. And while she believes in goodness, there's nothing fluffy or weak about it. It's a goodness that remains resolute in the face of failure and betrayal....

★ It's an IndieNext pick by the Independent Booksellers Association in the US

★ It's a Romantic Times Top Pick

★ It has received coveted and rare starred reviews from all four pre-publication review journals (Kirkus, Publisher's Weekly, Booklist and Library Journal).

★ The Washington Post:extraordinary. In How the Light Gets In, Penny has written a magnificent mystery novel that appeals not only to the head, but also to the heart and soul.

★ USA Today: A New and Noteworthy Selection

★ People Magazine gave it 4 out of 4 stars saying, *Once again, Penny delivers a masterful, nuanced suspense novel in which tone and setting are just as riveting as the murderer's who and why.*

★ The Daily Express in Britain raved: *Unrelentingly fast-paced, it powers through its narrative with the force of a high-speed train.*

★ Richmond Times Dispatch

"With the grace of a master prose stylist and the generosity born of a kind heart, Penny again explores the mysteries of humanity in a novel that builds to a nerve-burning climax, engages the mind in an examination of sin and redemption....Suffused with brilliance on all levels, "How the Light Gets In" displays Penny at her beautiful and bountiful best."

Audio excerpt of HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN

I know many of you are fans of Ralph Cosham, who won the Audie award earlier this year from his reading of *The Beautiful Mystery* (the eighth Gamache book). Well we have a treat for you. [Here's an excerpt of him reading from HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN.](#) Enjoy!

It is so much fun having you with me, not just on tour, but I feel your presence all the time.

Encouraging, kind, supportive. Thoughtful. Thank you. No matter what happens, we've done our best and we've had fun along the way.

Now's the time to enjoy.

Vive Gamache! And long life to you, my friend.

With thanks from a fellow traveler,

Louise

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