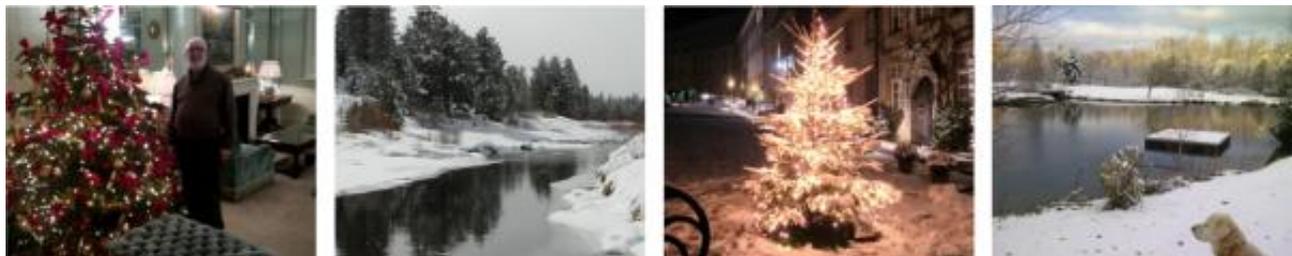


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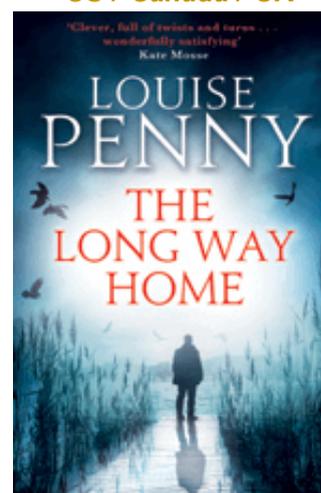
Louise Penny's December Newsletter

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree."

- Roy L. Smith



The Long Way Home US / Canada / UK



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How The Light Gets In

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The Long Way Home - Best book lists

Can you believe it's the holiday season already? Here in Quebec we've had snow, and lost snow, then had more – though nothing compared to the blizzards that have walloped Buffalo.

It has been a giddy time for us. We've received all sorts of great news.

THE LONG WAY HOME has been chosen one of the **Best Books of 2014** by a number of places including . .

- Kirkus Reviews named it a Best Crime Fiction of the Year
- The Washington Post chose it as one of the Best Fiction Books of the Year
- The Globe and Mail named to their Top 100 Books of the Year and one of the top 5 crime novels
- Amazon.com named a Best Book of 2014
- Barnes and Noble chose it as a Top Holiday Book
- AudioFile has named THE LONG WAY HOME the Best Crime Fiction Audio Book of 2014!! This is a bittersweet acknowledgement of the gifts of Ralph Cosham, since he passed away earlier in the fall. But it is still reason to celebrate a wonderful man. Oh, how we miss him.
- Aunt Agatha's (a fabulous crime fiction bookstore in Ann Arbor) has named THE LONG WAY HOME one of the Best Crime Novels of 2014

This is, as you can imagine, thrilling! Have to admit, good news is sort of addictive. I feel like that ravenous plant in Little Shop of Horrors.

Feeeeeed meeeeeee.....

Insatiable. But don't tell anyone....it is, apparently, not very becoming.

Feeeeeed meeeeeee..... (shhhhh)

Gamache Box Set and Three Pines gift ideas



I also wanted to mention that there's now a Gamache Box Set available from the US publishers. It's a sort of Three Pines starter set, with the first three books, *STILL LIFE*, *A FATAL GRACE*, *THE CRUELEST MONTH*. (Just a reminder that *A Fatal Grace* is the American title for *Dead Cold*).

If you live in the States, your bookstore should either have the box set, or be able to order it, as a wonderful Christmas gift to introduce someone to the series, or for your own library of course.

Now, if you live outside the US - in Canada for instance - the Three Pines Box Set should not be available. Officially. It has to do with licenses, and certainly not my desire. So I would never, ever think to suggest you approach your local bookstore and see if they can somehow get in a box set. Because that would be wrong....

And, speaking of gifts, Vive Gamache café au lait mugs as well as other select items are available – worldwide. But they're sold in only one place and that's through Danny and Lucy at Brome Lake Books, our local bookstore. [Here's the link.](#)

They'll ship worldwide, though, be warned, the Canada Post rates can come as a bit of a surprise.

Satellite Tour - beam me up Scotty!

December is a quiet month, work-wise, for us though for the first time I'll be doing what's called a 'satellite tour' – sounds very exotic and Star Trek-y – but basically it's a series of interviews for NPR stations around the United States, throughout the month. Hope to be doing one in your area! I'm not sure what the schedule is yet. If you'd like to follow the tour on [Facebook, just click here.](#)

Christmas in Canada

Last year at this time Michael and I were in London, only flying home two days before Christmas. The decorations in London were sublime, but it was a little frazzling to arrive back in Canada so close to the holiday.

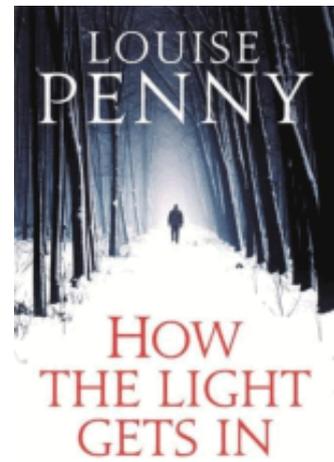
I love Christmas, and we missed being home to put up the tree, and have meals with friends, enjoying what is always a magical time in Quebec. Though the carol sing-along at the Royal Albert Hall in London was pretty spectacular.

Michael and I, along with his son Victor and our friends Kirk and Walter will be going to the CBC Radio Sing-In at St Andrews and St Paul's Anglican Church in Montreal, at 3pm on Sunday, December 7th, along with hundreds of our closest friends. It's a fundraiser for the NDG Food Bank. We've donated a Vive Gamache gift basket to be auctioned off on the live broadcast on Friday, December 5th.

The Sing-In is an annual tradition – a sort of official start to the season. And so beautiful! The whole gathering, 15-hundred voices strong, singing Christmas carols (and whatever Michael and I are singing) together. My God, it is deeply moving. I always end up in tears.

The event is recorded and played back later, though I'm not sure when.

The next weekend, on Saturday December 13th, there's the annual Knowlton Historical Society



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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

THE LONG WAY HOME

Christmas bake sale. My Assistant Lise is donating baked goods, and I'm making some shortbread. Or shortbricks, depending on whether I take them out of the oven on time.

The sale starts at ten in the morning at the Historical Society.

In the meantime, when not writing cards and wrapping gifts, and doing test runs of shortbread (I am just that responsible), I'm working on the second draft of the next Gamache book. It's going more slowly than I'd hoped, but I'm happy with it.

This is such a wonderful time of year, but, as with the awards, it can also be bittersweet. Especially if you've lost someone you love this past year. While I didn't know her, both Michael and I were sad to hear of the recent death of PD James. She has been writing for as long as I've been reading, and has kept me company through the years, and into my own career. What a magnificent writer and the oak tree for many of us. I was asked to write a tribute to PD James for the Globe and Mail [here is the link](#).

This will be a quieter Christmas than most for us. Michael isn't very chatty these days, though he remains the happiest man in any room, and is always smiling. When I ask, 'Are you happy?' He says, 'I'm happy!'. And when I say, 'I love you.' He says, 'I love you too.' With a grin from ear to ear.

We are enjoying, and appreciating, every moment. Every sight. Every bite.

Those are the gifts. And thankfully, they don't need wrapping.

Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays! And a healthy, joyful, safe, peaceful 2015.

Love,

Michael, Bishop and Louise

(To see the photographs used in this newsletter in a larger size [click here to see them via my website](#).)

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