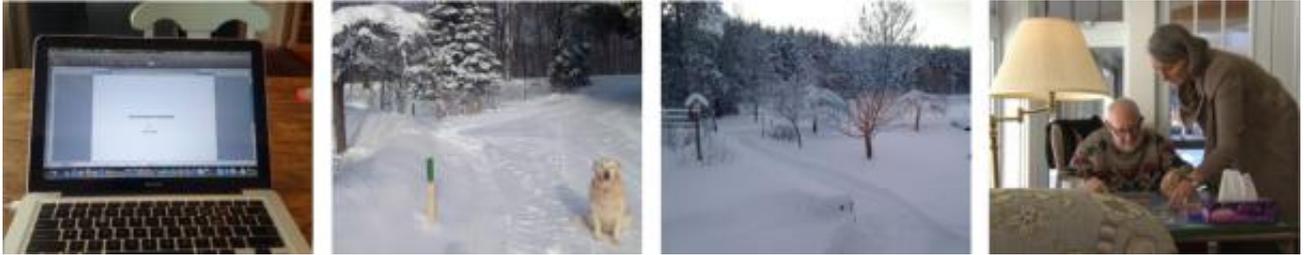


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Louise Penny's February Newsletter

Winter is Nature's way of saying, "Up Yours".
- Robert Byrne



Book 11 - new title

February already - only two more months before we think winter should be over.

Hope you're having a good 2015 so far. Ours has been terrific but oddly eventful. Not harried. Just a nice pace.

I finished the next Gamache book! #11, can you believe it? It's with the editors now. My US editor, Hope Dellon, read it and wrote, "I'm blown away. It's glorious." And some other nice things, but those are the words I've tattooed to My Assistant Lise's forehead.

I can also now tell you the title of the book: **THE NATURE OF THE BEAST**.

However, in keeping with the mystery theme, I won't tell you what it's about. Not yet, anyway. It will be out in August and you can pre-order it from your local bookstore or online.

And please, please keep spreading the word. I can't begin to tell you what a difference that makes. In fact, the only reason the Gamache books have reached #1 is because you told others. It helps to have friends with big hearts and big mouths!

SO excited for you to read **THE NATURE OF THE BEAST!!** OK, since you are such a great friend of the books and have been so supportive of Michael and I, I will let this tidbit slip. The book is definitely set in Three Pines, almost all the scenes are there, and features, of course, Armand Gamache – and croissants.

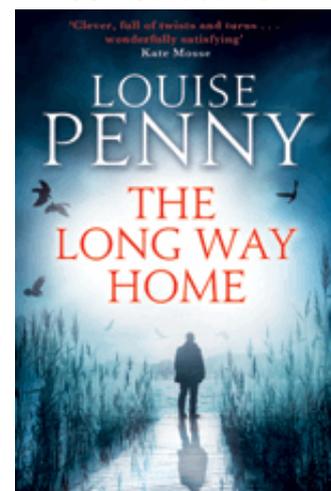
Agatha Award Nomination - The Long Way Home

We had wonderful news just the other day - THE LONG WAY HOME has been nominated for an Agatha Award for Best Crime Novel of the year. The nominees in that category are:

Best Contemporary Novel

The Good, The Bad and The Emus by *Donna Andrews (Minotaur Books)*

The Long Way Home US / Canada / UK



Click if you wish to order

[Barnes & Noble.com](#)

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[Amazon.co.uk](#)

[iBookstore](#)

[ABA American Booksellers Association](#)

[\(IMBA\) The Independent Mystery Booksellers Association](#)

How The Light Gets In

US / Canada / UK

A Demon Summer by *G.M. Malliet* (*Minotaur Books*)

Truth Be Told by *Hank Phillippi Ryan* (*Forge Books*)

The Long Way Home by *Louise Penny* (*Minotaur Books*)

Designated Daughters by *Margaret Maron* (*Grand Central Publishing*)

Congratulations to everyone nominated. Such a huge honour!

French crime fiction festival

In other fun news, my publisher in France wrote to say I've been invited to speak at the big crime fiction festival in Lyon, France at the end of March. I was thrilled, of course. [Here's the link](#). Hope you can make it too.

This did, though, create some logistical issues which had to be solved before I'd considered attending. I would never consider leaving Michael behind, but I also knew he couldn't make the trip.

I was, to be honest, about to decline the invitation when it occurred to me that maybe we could go to London first – do a make-up of the trip that had to be cancelled in November. Then he can stay in his beloved London, with people he knows and loves keeping him company, while I hop on the TGV with my agent Teresa Chris and we scoot down to Lyon, then back to London. (Pausing to eat astonishing meals along the way, zoot alors.)

So – that's the plan. Honestly, this is such a surprising life.

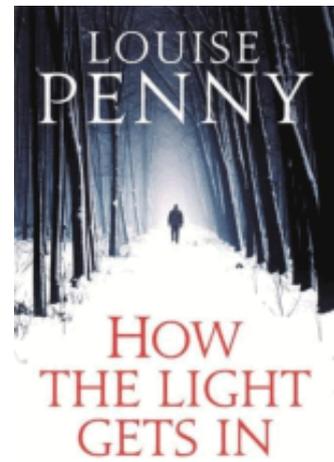
Book editing with sand between my toes

But before all that happens, we have February, most of which will be taken up with two things – doing the editors' notes on THE NATURE OF THE BEAST, and heading to Jamaica for 2 weeks!

Oh, dear Lord, we can hardly wait. We've been to the same Inn for several years running and even took the family down to celebrate Michael's 80th birthday there last year. So we know the people, know many of the other guests who'll be there. Know the room we'll have and the routine. It's perfect. Michael and I are, I admit, creatures of habit. There's a comfort that comes with that.

Alzheimer's Awareness Month - CBC interview

January was a great month – what with finishing the book, and all. Phew! And it was also Alzheimer's Awareness Month in Canada. I was asked to be one of the spokespeople for the Alzheimer's Associations of Quebec.



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**[ABA](#) American
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**[\(IMBA\)](#) The Independent
Mystery 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

THE LONG WAY HOME

Because of that CBC-TV came to our home and talked with me about dementia, and Michael, and our lives before and since. It was, as I'm sure you can imagine, a difficult interview but something Michael and I feel strongly needs to be done.

[Here's the link to the CBC item.](#) There are 3 parts to the interview if you wish to scroll down and view them all.

I can't watch it, but if you do I think you get to see Bishop in action. Or inaction. The nature of the beast.

Well, I think that's all our news. How are you? Has 2015 been treating you well so far? I hope so.

Many thanks, as always, for your company. It means the world to us.

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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