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Louise Penny

March Newsletter



"Logic will get you from A to Z but imagination will get you everywhere" **Albert Einstein**

JAMAICA

As you know, it has been a bitterly cold and unusually stormy February, even by Canadian standards. So Michael and I decamped to Jamaica - ahhh, bliss. Two weeks at the astonishing Jamaica Inn where, as further proof this is Paradise, my laptop stopped working. So this will be a shorter than usual letter, though honestly there is not much to report anyway.

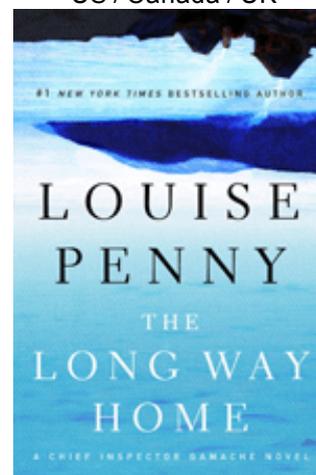


Breakfast on terrace, down to beach, swim, laze about, lunch, more lazing about. Back to room, lazing on the terrace. Afternoon tea (such effort), nap, dinner. Bed. Then repeat.

Michael made the trip brilliantly. I was a little concerned about the flight and whether he'd need to use the facilities, but while he sailed along for the 3.5 hours from Montreal to Montego Bay, listening to Kenny Rogers, I was the one up and down to the bathroom. Most humbling.

The Long Way Home

US / Canada / UK



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THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

As you might remember, in my last letter I told you the title of the next Gamache book. THE NATURE OF THE BEAST. Well, now I can give you a very brief description . . .

Hardly a day goes by when nine year old Laurent Lepage doesn't cry wolf. From alien invasions, to walking trees, to winged beasts in the woods, to dinosaurs spotted in the village of Three Pines, his tales are so extraordinary no one can possibly believe him. Including Armand and Reine-Marie Gamache, who now live in the little Quebec village.

But when the boy disappears the villagers are faced with the possibility that one of his tall tales might have been true. And so begins a frantic search for the boy and the truth. What they uncover deep in the forest sets off a sequence of events that leads to murder, leads to an old crime, leads to an old betrayal. Leads right to the door of an old poet.

And now it is now, writes Ruth Zardo. And the dark thing is here. A monster once visited Three Pines. And put down deep roots. And now, Ruth knows, it is back.

Armand Gamache, the former head of homicide for the Sûreté du Québec, must face the possibility that, in not believing the boy, he himself played a terrible part in what happens next.

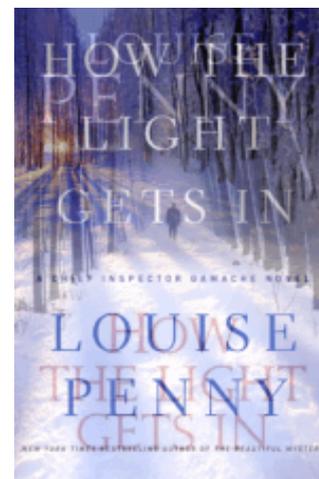
You can see why the quote from Albert Einstein is so perfect.

I have to say, it was at times a challenging book to write, but it was also a delight. It contains so many themes that fascinate me, including the power of storytelling. It is also such joy to be in the company of Armand, Clara, Gabri and yes, even foul-mouthed Ruth and her foul-mouthed fowl, Rosa.

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST will come out on August 25th and you can pre-order it now from your bookstore or online.

PBS SHOW - INTERVIEW

As While I was in Seattle last year, touring with THE LONG WAY HOME, I visited the set of the PBS show 'Well Read' and had the very great pleasure of meeting and having a conversation with Terry Tazioli and Mary Ann Gwinn. Well, the interview has just aired and [here's the link](#) if you're interested.



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NATURE OF THE BEAST - TOUR

We're also in the process of coming up with the tour for THE NATURE OF THE BEAST. For reasons I know you know, this one will be a little shorter than usual. The publishers were so kind and said they'd be happy to forego a tour this year, but I really wanted to get out and see you, if possible, to thank you for all your support in the past, and especially now.

When the dates and cities are set, I'll let you know.

And, once again, I want to thank you for introducing Armand and Three Pines to so many other readers, and to book groups, and chat sites online. It has made a world of difference.

I am, dare I say it, very excited about THE NATURE OF THE BEAST. So looking forward to the release!

LYON CRIME FICTION FESTIVAL

In other book-ish news, Michael and I are off to London mid-March, to play. And to do some work with the UK publishers. And - as I told you last month - to head to Lyon for the Crime Fiction Festival here. Among other things, they've asked me to do an event at the Musée des Beaux Arts of Lyon. The idea is that I choose one of the masterpieces in the Gallery and talk about it, with reference to my works.

I wonder if they know I'm an artistic idiot? A heathen? Shhhhhh.

I'm not sure of my exact schedule at the festival, though I do know I'll be in Lyon at the festival from March 26th to the 29th. My agent, Teresa, is coming with me from London. By train. What an adventure!! You are, as always dear friend, invited along.

[Here's the link](#) to the festival website. It would be amazing if you could, by some chance, make it there in person. Wouldn't that be fun?

LONDON

**HERE'S THE ORDER OF
THE CHIEF INSPECTOR
GAMACHE BOOKS,**

Michael will be staying in London. Our wonderful friend and caregiver, Kim, is coming over from Quebec to visit and keep him company. We are so incredibly fortunate in our situation.

By the time we head over to London, the middle of this month, I'll have the copy edited manuscript for THE NATURE OF THE BEAST in hand and be working on it. This is the last chance to catch mistakes before publication. I have to tell you, it never ceases to amaze me when I find myself in London, or New York, (or Lyon), in a café, reading the copy edit of my own book. And it's not a hallucination. You'd think after 10 books, THE NATURE OF THE BEAST is the eleventh, I'd be used to it - but it always gives me tingles.

The next reveal will be the cover of the book, but the publishers are still working on that.

Some of you have asked about US/UK/Canada/Commonwealth pub dates....well, they're all synchronized now. The book will come out in English on the same date everywhere. The translations, (there are now 28 languages for the Gamache books) take longer and are generally a few books behind.

GAMACHE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The other extremely exciting bit of news is that to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the appearance of Chief Inspector Gamache (STILL LIFE came out in 2005 in Canada/UK/Commonwealth, and 2006 in the US), the UK publisher is putting out a special edition hardcover of STILL LIFE, as well as a box set.

More about that, and other celebrations, later, but I did want you to know some of the early plans.

As always, this brings our deepest thanks for always being there for Michael and me (and Bishop!). My Assistant Lise (patent pending) also says hi. That is, before I hush her up and send her back to work!

See you in London next. I'll be posting lots of photos and news on [Facebook](#), if you want to join me over there, and I will of course

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

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

write again at the beginning of April.

Big embraces and thanks,

Louise, Michael, Bishop and My Assistant Lise (back to work you!!)

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

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Louise Penny on [Facebook](#)

E-mail: contact@louispenny.com

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