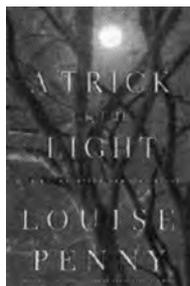


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Tekst 15

BRIEFLY



A TRICK OF THE LIGHT

By Louise Penny. 352 pages. Minotaur, \$25.99; Sphere, £19.99.

After dispatching Chief Inspector Armand Gamache to Quebec City in her last novel, "Bury Your Dead," Louise Penny finds good cause to draw the discerning head of the homicide division of the Sûreté du Québec back to Three Pines, a village so tiny it doesn't appear on any map. "It could not be found unless you were lost," she explains.

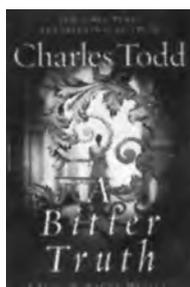
Gamache returns to this enchanted ground in "A Trick of the Light" when a dead woman turns up in Clara Morrow's flower garden, ruining this local artist's moment of glory after her solo show at the Musée d'Art Contemporain in Montreal. When the victim is identified as an art critic and frenemy from Clara's past, she becomes an obvious "person of interest" to the police. But with so many members of the cutthroat art community on hand, there are plenty of suspects to go around.



PLUGGED

By Eoin Colfer. 256 pages. Overlook, \$24.95; Headline, £12.99.

Compared with that criminal mastermind Artemis Fowl, Dan McEvoy is a bungling idiot. But that's essentially the appeal of Eoin Colfer's first adult protagonist, an expat Irish Army veteran who appears in "Plugged" in the job of club bouncer at a sleazy New Jersey club called Slotz. When first met, Dan seems to have no ambition beyond flirting with a hostess named Connie and growing some hair. "If you got hair," he reasons, "then maybe you ain't so old and your life ain't so over." It's no wonder, then, that Dan goes ballistic when Connie is murdered and someone kidnaps the quack who's been implanting his hair plugs. Dan's chivalric mission of mayhem makes no logical sense, but it does attract the attention of numerous unsavory characters and results in lots of bloody fun.



A BITTER TRUTH

By Charles Todd. 352 pages. Morrow/HarperCollins, \$24.99.

It's 1917, and Bess Crawford is in London on Christmas leave in "A Bitter Truth," the third novel by Charles Todd (the nom de plume of a mother-and-son writing team) about this kind-hearted World War I battlefield nurse. Soon, though, a young woman prevails upon Bess to accompany her to Vixen Hill, the family estate in Sussex from which she has fled after a violent argument with her husband. Uncomfortable

as Bess is in this dour household, where everyone seems in perpetual mourning, she's drawn into both their domestic disputes and a murder investigation. The authors make fine work of the brooding atmosphere at Vixen Hill, but seem to have wasted the exceptional talents of their combat-trained sleuth on this housebound mystery.



THE ADJUSTMENT

By Scott Phillips. 224 pages. Counterpoint, \$25

Wayne Ogden is a prince of a fellow, as long as you judge this bad-boy protagonist of Scott Phillips's caustic "The Adjustment" according to his own perverse code of ethics. As a quartermaster for the United States Army, Ogden once had a rewarding career as a pimp and a trader on the black market but life in postwar Wichita proves a letdown, and he feels his skills are wasted in his job, which involves enabling the owner of an aviation company to indulge his various degenerate hobbies. Going by his own rule book, Ogden is just "playing Good Samaritan" when he escorts pregnant girls to a "reliable angelmaker", distributes drugs to needy addicts and takes lonely women to bed. And provided he doesn't kill too many people or run out on his wife, who's to say otherwise?

ON LINE: MORE CRIME COLUMNS

Marilyn Stasio reviews the latest mysteries. global.nytimes.com/books

International Herald Tribune, 2011

Tekst 15 *Briefly*

- 1p 44 Wordt er een boek genoemd dat een kind als hoofdpersoon heeft?
Zo nee, antwoord "Nee". Zo ja, schrijf de titel van dit boek op.
- 1p 45 Wordt er een boek genoemd dat zich in oorlogstijd afspeelt?
Zo nee, antwoord "Nee". Zo ja, schrijf de titel van dit boek op.