

# joyce derenas

where keeping Canadian history alive is my love

## FAMILY PHOTOS & OLD LETTERS TELL THE STORY

When Joyce Derenas inherited her mother's family photo collection from the early 1900s, she pushed them aside. But once she retired, these provided all the inspiration that she needed. Letters written decades earlier share the story of her grandfather and his brothers who struggled for a future beyond poverty. Joyce's novel, the long shot, reveals the hardships and sacrifices that men endured when Canada was in a deep depression.





**the long shot**  
**Launch Day**  
a french canadian saga  
book 1  
4-1-19

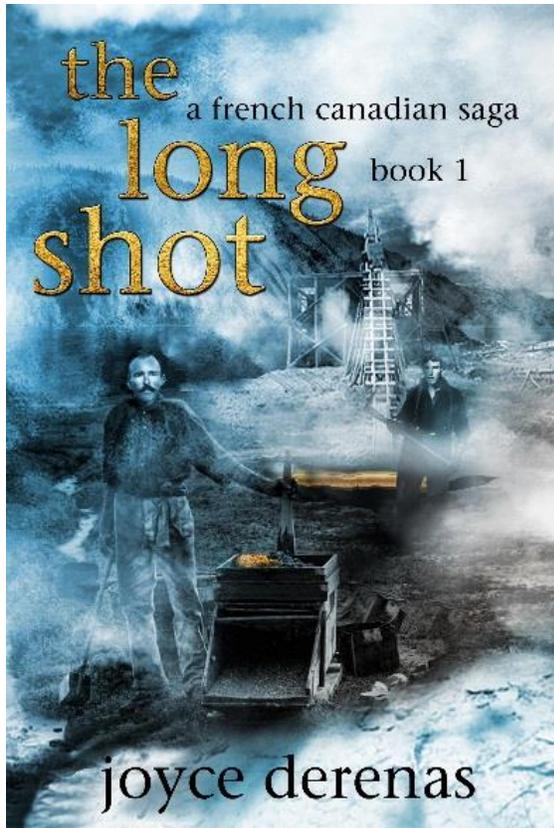
[joycederenas.com](http://joycederenas.com)

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## AMAZON RELEASES NOVEL BY HISTORICAL FICTION AUTHOR

**Worcester, Massachusetts April 1, 2019:** The novel *the long shot*, written by Joyce Derenas, is released on Amazon.



This exciting adventure story is Book 1 of a French-Canadian saga set in 1907 in Quebec in the life of Nazaire Poulin, a poor grain grower.

The sudden death of Nazaire's spouse sets into motion events he could never have dreamed. His children are taken, and he has no chance to set a spring crop.

- ☞ His government pushed him down.
- ☞ His God is deaf and dumb to his pleas.
- ☞ His family traditions betray him.

He is a man lost.

April 1, 2019  
ISBN-10: 1090787294  
ISBN-13: 978-1090787293

### **Nazaire does the only thing a man can do — fight for what is his.**

Based on the true story of five Poulin brothers, *the long shot* is an exciting survival adventure detailing Nazaire Poulin's four-thousand-mile journey, revealing a desperate man's incredible courage and resilience. Sprinkled with extensive research by Derenas, *the long shot* exposes the unique signature of pioneering men in the heart of the Dawson community in the Yukon wilderness.

With personal family documents and a collection of family photos, Joyce writes about the lives of her Quebecois ancestors as she weaves the details of daily life into a rich tapestry. Readers who love history and action adventures will experience the joys, pride, and struggles that have shaped the lives of past generations. These are stories that your grandchildren need to hear.

☞ visit [www.joycederenas.com](http://www.joycederenas.com) for more information ☞

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY



Joyce Derenas received her BA in English with a Concentration in Writing from Worcester State College. While there, Joyce wrote her first, short biography of Ichabod Washburn, one of the founding fathers of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA.

After Joyce retired from a career as a software technical writer, she decided to have fun. With her free time, Joyce has enjoyed numerous visits to learn more about her French-Canadian roots in southern Quebec.

Returning to her mother's birth village, Joyce visited the village of Saint Joseph of Beauce, discovering more about her Quebecois family and other pioneers from the area.

To write her debut novel, *the long shot*, Joyce needed to do a little flying. Her primary research has included one outstanding trip to the Yukon Territory for a few months, and a short stay researching the collection in the Archives of Canada in Ottawa, Ontario. When she left for the Yukon, she knew of four blood relatives and two wives. She returned, discovering 22 deceased relatives there, and meeting three living ones. Her immediate family numbers over 80 within a ten-mile radius of her home.

Besides flying around North America, Joyce managed to find herself at the Mother House of the Little Sisters of Quebec, the Gray Nuns, and at the present site of Villa Mastai, now known as the University Institute in Mental Health of Quebec. She found descendants in the YOOP (Yukon Order of Pioneers) cemetery of Dawson, and the spirit houses of Moosehide in the Yukon. In Beauport and Saint Joseph of Beauce in Quebec, she discovered graves of many relatives.

She has eaten fromage a crottes (curd cheese), boudin noir (blood sausage), sausage with saltpeter and 'les cretons' (ground pork cooked with either cognac, whiskey or champagne). She has sacrificed a lot to maintain her French connections.

# PRAISE FOR THE LONG SHOT

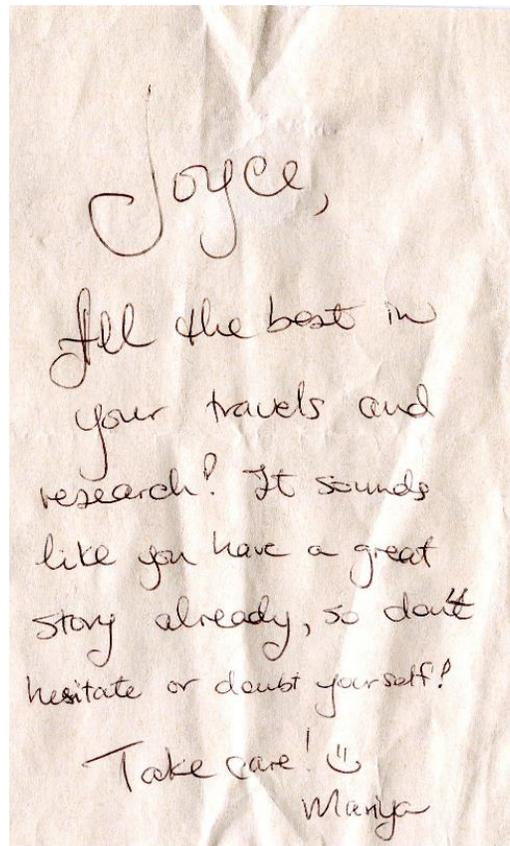
## A Breathtaking First Novel

I loved everything about Joyce Derenas' breathtaking first novel, *The Long Shot*. Her hero, Nazaire Poulin, loses his wife, his children are stripped away from him, and his most valuable asset, his land, is put at risk. In a classic hero's journey, he leaves his hometown behind and heads west with his brother, Raul, in search of gold. Along the way, he runs into just about every obstacle I could imagine and a few I couldn't. I had to keep quickly turning pages to find out his fate. Derenas' writing is crisp and clear. Her scenes sparkle as they take us across rugged and dangerous country with Nazaire and his brother. I don't want to give too much of the plot away, but I will say Derenas has done a great job of building the story to its sensational ending. I highly recommend *The Long Shot* for all lovers of historical fiction. I'm looking forward to seeing what happens in Book 2.

-Rich Marcello

## MORE PRAISE

During one of my research trips, I met a lovely young woman named Manya. She was bright, generous and asked about my story. As she listened, I couldn't help but think she enjoyed hearing about my 1907 novel since she listened so intently. The next morning, she was gone. To my surprise, I found this simple note in the kitchen. It read:



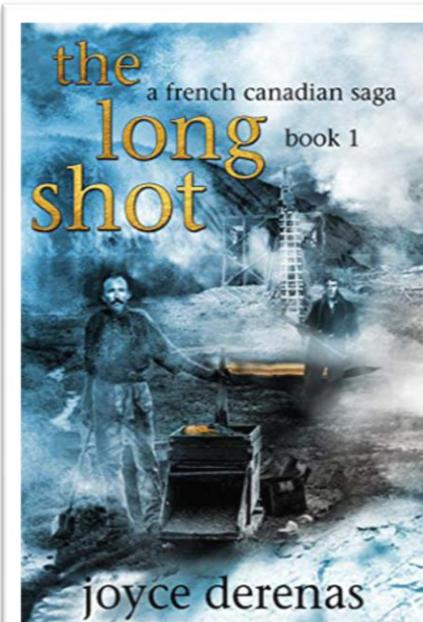
I have looked at these words of encouragement every morning for the last two years. Wherever you are in the world, thank you, Manya, for the support.

The novel *the long shot* is based on the real-life story of five brothers from Quebec. With family documents and extensive research, *the long shot* is an exciting adventure story of determination and gumption. Set in 1907, it paints a picture of courage and family bonds.

## LOG LINE

Can a widower reunite his children, save his farmland and restore his crushed faith?

## ELEVATOR PITCH



**Based on a true story.**

**Two brothers trek 4,000 miles across the Canadian wilderness.**

**Their dream - a glimpse of the fabled Yukon gold which could change their lives forever.**

## CONTACTS

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<https://www.pinterest.com/joycederenas>

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joycederenas>

## VETTED

The novel, the long shot: a french canadian saga – book 1 is part of the collection at the Chelmsford Public Library, a member of the Massachusetts Library System and the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium. This Consortium is an alliance of 36 public libraries serving the Greater Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts.

## TWITTER HASHTAGS

#thelongshot  
#yukonadventure  
#Canada  
#frenchcanadiansaga  
#CanadianPrairies  
#gold

## BOOK TRAILER

Book Trailer for the long shot at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO7YddquiEw>

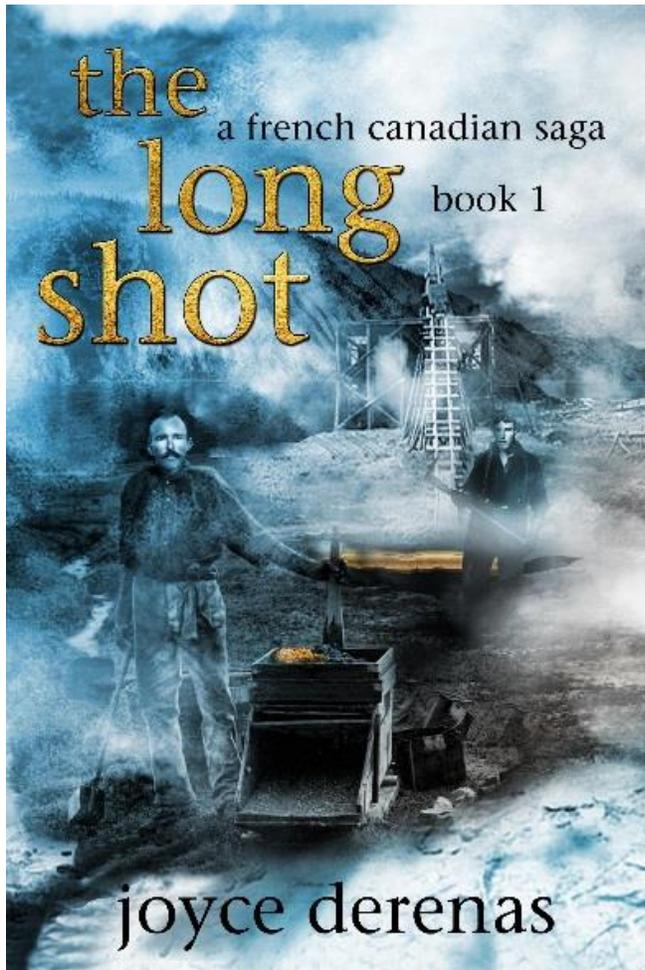


ebook = <https://www.amazon.com/long-shot-french-canadian-saga-ebook/dp/B07PS97PYW/>

print = <https://www.amazon.com/long-shot-french-canadian-saga/dp/1090787294/>

visit [www.joycederenas.com](http://www.joycederenas.com) for more information

## the long shot: a french canadian saga – book 1



This exciting adventure story is Book 1 of a French-Canadian saga set in 1907 in Quebec in the life of Nazaire Poulin, a poor grain grower.

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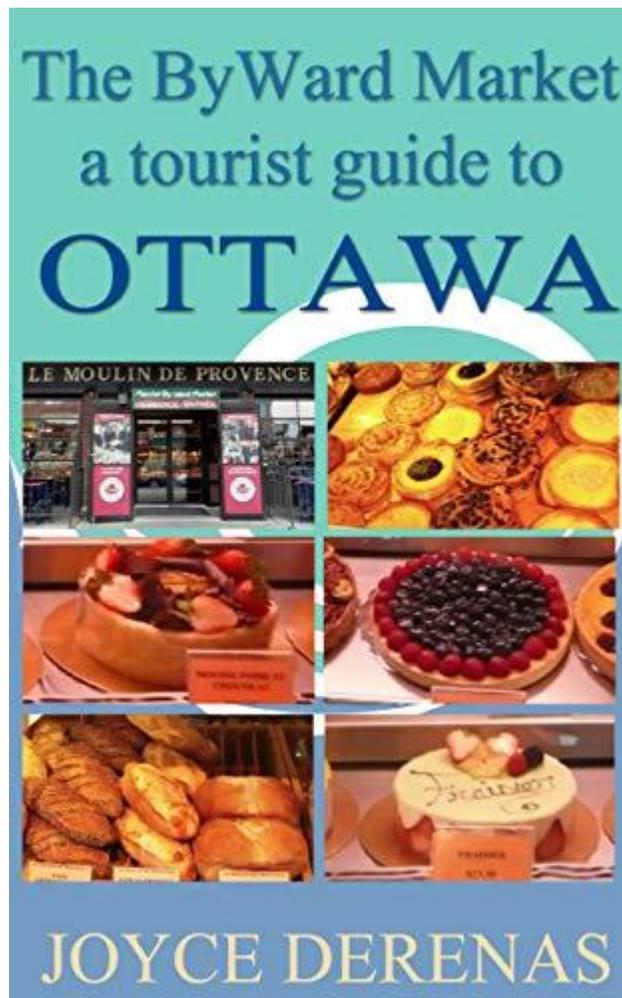
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## ByWard Market: A Tourist Guide to Ottawa



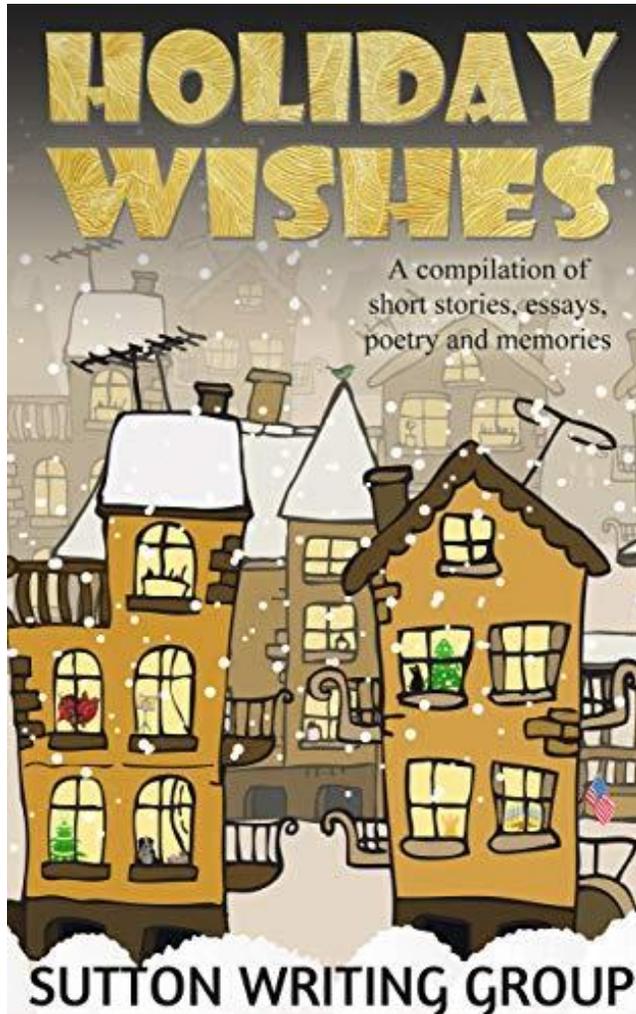
A short sampling of the ByWard Market and surrounding neighborhoods, showcasing the famous landmark, Le Moulin de Provence, a wonderful meeting place for tourists and locals alike who search for the perfect Danish, petit fours, fruit pies, tortes, cakes, meringue-filled delicacies and mouth-watering rolls and artisan breads. Included are photos of local vendors with their vegetables, a few local restaurants and the nearby rent-a-bike station.

This guide highlights Le Moulin de Provence, a “jewel of Ottawa”, just outside the back door of the famous department store: The Bay. The ByWard Market features many wonderful restaurants, two world-class cheese stores, and depending on the season, numerous outdoor vendors who sell hand crafted items, local fresh fruit and produce. The ByWard is a landmark and popular meeting place for locals and tourists alike.

December 18, 2015  
ASIN: B019KGW0J8

Always bustling with customer, Le Moulin de Provence is a unique patisserie that features breads, rolls, pastries, tortes, pies and a full-service deli area. This Café Bistro and meeting place is crowded seven days a week. During 2009, Barack Obama visited and loved it so much, the Provence renamed their famous maple cookie the “Obama”. Their outdoor patio is often crowded with people all year round. The deli features hot soups, gyros, grinders and a variety of frittatas and quiches which they will gladly heat up for you. Everything in the store is created daily by a large international staff of chefs, each with an expert specialty.

# Holiday Wishes - A Compilation of Short Stories, Essays, Poetry, and Memories (Sutton Writing Group Compilations Book 3)



by  
Lisa Shea (Goodreads Author)

Ophelia Sikes (Goodreads Author)

Linda DeFeudis (Goodreads Author)

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Lily Penter

Jane Nozzolillo

Ibi Obomanu

Joyce Derenas (Goodreads Author)

December 17, 2018  
ASIN: B07LFVZNDT

Our holiday collection includes short stories, poetry, essays, memories, and much more, all celebrating the myriad of ways in which we celebrate this precious time of year. We may use different names and emphasize different symbology, but together we all have the same core foundations - peace, love, and compassion for others. Happy Holidays.