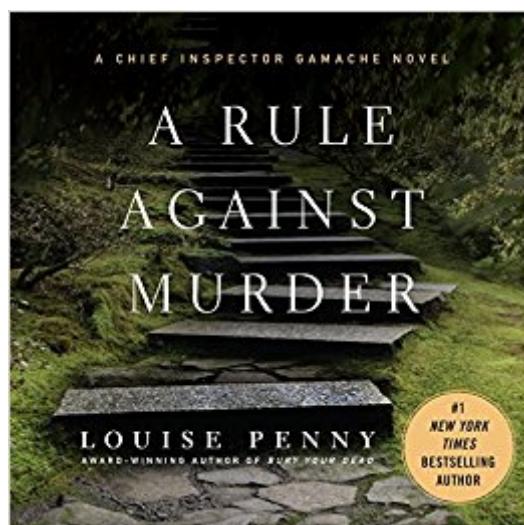


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A Rule Against Murder: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel



Synopsis

"What happened here last night isn't allowed," said Madame Dubois. It was such an extraordinary thing to say it stopped the ravenous Inspector Beauvoir from taking another bite of his roast beef on baguette. "You have a rule against murder?" he asked. "I do. When my husband and I bought the Bellechasse we made a pact....Everything that stepped foot on this land would be safe." It is the height of summer, and Armand and Reine-Marie Gamache are celebrating their wedding anniversary at Manoir Bellechasse, an isolated, luxurious inn not far from the village of Three Pines. But they're not alone. The Finney family—rich, cultured, and respectable—has also arrived for a celebration of their own. The beautiful Manoir Bellechasse might be surrounded by nature, but there is something unnatural looming. As the heat rises and the humidity closes in, some surprising guests turn up at the family reunion, and a terrible summer storm leaves behind a dead body. It is up to Chief Inspector Gamache to unearth secrets long buried and hatreds hidden behind polite smiles. The chase takes him to Three Pines, into the dark corners of his own life, and finally to a harrowing climax in *A Rule Against Murder*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Murder interrupts Chief Insp. Armand Gamache and his wife's annual summer holiday at Quebec's isolated, lake-front Manoir Bellechasse in Agatha-winner Penny's intriguing, well-crafted fourth mystery (after 2008's *The Cruelest Month*). Irene Finney, the matriarch of a large eccentric family having a reunion at the Manoir, marks the event by having installed in the lodge's garden a statue of

the long-dead father of her middle-aged children. When the massive statue falls and crushes one of the daughters, Gamache investigates and discovers no love lost among the surviving offspring. Also in the suspect pool are Bellechasse's owner, chef and maître d'. Despite the scorn the snobbish Finneys heap on Gamache's sleuthing efforts as well as his own infamous family tree, the inspector treats them all respectfully as he seeks to bring a killer to justice. Seamless, often lyrical prose artfully reveals the characters' flaws, dreams and blessings. Author tour. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Starred Review Readers who haven't discovered Louise Penny and her Armand Gamache series yet are in for a treat. In the latest entry, Chief Inspector Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec has traveled to the luxurious and remote Manoir Bellechasse with his wife, Reine-Marie. Each year they return to the manor to celebrate their wedding anniversary on July 1, Canada Day. This year they are fellow guests with the Finney family. Two of the members of that family are old friends Peter and Clara Morrow from the village of Three Pines on the Rivière Bella Bella, where the first three books in this series took place. Not only are we treated to Penny's usual rich characterizations, but the atmospheric and beautiful language will make you want to take your next vacation at the manoir. Of course, a crime does occur, and Gamache ends up on a busman's holiday. One of the eccentric Finney family members dies in a very grotesque manner, and Gamache calls in his team to help solve the mystery. First, Armand has to figure out why the victim was killed, and, in fact, it wouldn't hurt to determine how the deed was done. Suspects abound, naturally, and Gamache sorts through them with aplomb. One of the best traditional mystery series currently being published. --Judy Coon --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I was very unhappy with this purchase, as I discovered I had already read the book, published as "A Rule Against Murder". Returning it was not an option, as responsibility for international shipping depended on whether the problem was my fault or the supplier's. I felt it was neither but, rather, 's. Some books in some series are listed in such a way that a person can tell where that title falls in the series, but most are not, and it is not possible to determine the order by publication date, as some titles have been republished by a different publisher. I have spent a lot of time trying to determine the proper order of titles in the Inspector Gamache series and several other series. I can sometimes do this by a listing on the frontspiece, but not if different publishers are involved. could provide a

valuable service and meet their responsibility by making clear what is the order of titles in different series. To avoid customer dissatisfaction, the supplier may also want to note that the book has also been published under an alternate title.

The end was a surprise. If I had only paid more attention possibility I would have guessed the outcome.....nah. I enjoy these books. This is the year I will read all of her works! I just wish there were more and she wrote faster. The story is good and I always learn something. For some reason I always have a peaceful feeling when the Inspector reveals the guilty party and the reason.

An unusual and intricate plot for a murder mystery. Penny has you second guessing the character of one of the Three Pines residents you thought you had come to know in previous books in the Inspector Gamache series. However this story is only loosely linked to Three Pines and revolves around a truly dysfunctional family and the mayhem they have created for themselves. The characters are as always well developed. Some of them should be in therapy for sure! Penny has a unique way of creating her suspects, building and fueling the doubt until that moment when the sad truth is revealed and the murderer is identified.

I am thoroughly enjoying this series. The character development, including that of the town in which most of the stories take place is excellent. Penny draws very precise characters, that evolve throughout the books. Her style is vivid, humorous, food descriptions are engaging and not at all verbose. Love these books.

Louise Penny has become one of my favorite writers and always look forward to her next book; however, the narrative and dialog in this one was confusing and difficult to follow. If I had not read her later novels and come to love her imaginative writing skills, I would not have read another of her books.

I have been hoping to find a mystery writer that reminded me a little of my favorite Agatha Christie although she is not her she is good. Well first I love the set up and the back story of the family. This is my first read from the author so I was also introduced to the Gamache's and his staff which I happen to like. Next the complexities of this family set up for a nice murder mystery. My main goal when reading mysteries is to always try to guess by the middle who did it and why based on conversations, actions and back stories. Well I guess and it was wrong and when the murderer was exposed I could

remember the conversation in the book that actually expose the murderer but didnt put it together. anyway it was a great read recently purchase another one and hope it is as good

I've only just started reading this series about Inspector Gamache. This one seems the best written of the first four. Had to wait until Chapter 5 to make a connection to the village of Three Pines and then no going there until Chapter 27 nevertheless it gave us greater insight into Peter Morrow and his wife Clara who are surprised to meet the Gamaches celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary. Of course, there's a murder poorly understood unless you know something about the life of bees and how something heavy can slide easily if covered with sweet. Intriguing. But, now into the 4th book I am hooked. I enjoy the characters and the inspector and his fellow sleuths and I definitely feel related to the village of Three Pines and the people who populate it. The description of the heat of summer and the mosquitoes and thick forest and lovely lake and the Manse that is built next to it is well done. I have known such summers along with the rains and thunder and lightening. Since I am into metaphysics I truly enjoy the way in which Penny interweaves the mystical feelings in places and characters. She does it well and I feel at home. I am sure I will read every book involving inspector Gamache and the wonderful folks of Three Pines. If you're the down home type who enjoys references to the Canadian French and good food in the middle of a murder you'll love these books as much as I do.

This is the best of the series, and the series is quite remarkable. I could not stop reading: in one instance, it is the entire of the Quebec security regime, of which the hero is one of the heads; in another, it is a member of the household. This one takes place near Three Pines at an elegant resort. Why the best? The writing here is very witty and well paced. Some of the others suffer from the rapid back and forth of dialogue, one chapter one figure, another chapter, another, and so forth, and small chapters . This one is much better paced with developed chapters and a plot that does not need additional little bites. The characters are convincing and so attractive, that they become good friends throughout the series. Alas, I have now read them all.

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