

Finally, time to do a review: on the latest book by the supremely talented Louise Penny!

First, let me say that anyone who knows me from the library, knows that mystery is my genre; that Louise Penny is one of my all-time favorite authors... and that any time one of you shows even remote interest in mysteries and asks for reading recommendation or a new series: I will, hands down, offer you Louise Penny and the indelible, singular 'Inspector Gamache.'

The world Louise Penny has created with her 'pen' (keyboard!) in Three Pines (fictional village in Eastern Townships, Quebec) and the person, the soul and spirit in Armand Gamache and all those who love & surround him, are beyond delightful, endearing, inspiring and lovable. Unshakable. Unforgettable. Their lives intertwining in these tautly, poignantly written mysteries will leave you not only cheering for Gamache, his friends & family; all of his inner circle... They will leave imprints on your mind, your soul. And you will find yourself longing to get "lost" in this tiny, almost mythical village that is Three Pines. It will feel both utterly real and beyond belief; both magical and also just like home. You will long to go back there, again and again.

Cautionary warning: Penny has written these as a series. You can choose to randomly read the Gamache books (the stories will still make sense and you can "get" the story without the others); however, I strongly encourage you to read them in order. I just happened to stumble upon her, upon Gamache & Three Pines, several years ago but inadvertently began by reading The Brutal Telling, (fifth in the series). I was immediately drawn in, enraptured. However, now that I've had the chance to go back, then read them "in order," as it were, I could see how much more fulfilling it is to "watch" these characters come in & out of Gamache's world and Three Pines; to see their nuanced development over time. To get to know them in deep, meaningful ways as you would want to do with a long-time friend. As Publisher's Weekly wrote, *"...Penny's nuanced exploration of the human spirit continues to distinguish this brilliant series."*

Need the first title? It's called Still Life. Need to see the full list and reserve Louise Penny books? See your friendly, helpful librarians at Eureka Public Library! Oh, and 'Vive Gamache!'

Janet Wilkins