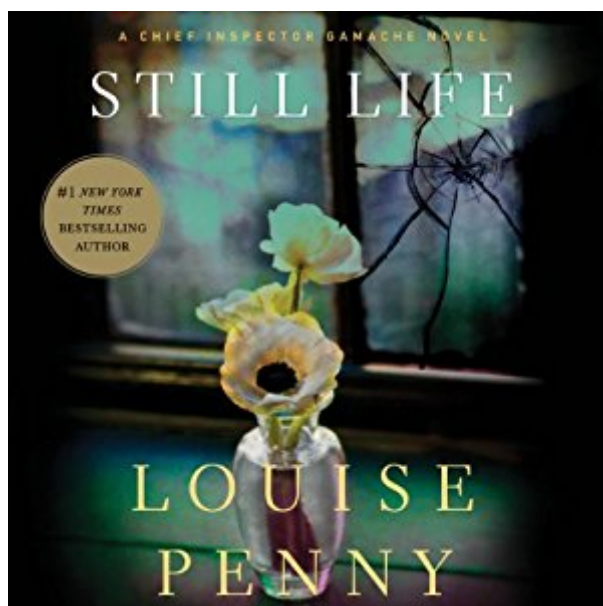


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Still Life: Chief Inspector Gamache, Book 1



Synopsis

Winner of the New Blood Dagger, Arthur Ellis, Barry, Anthony, and Dilys awards. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surintendant des Quatre Rivières and his team of investigators are called in to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, just north of the U.S. border, has been found dead in the woods. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident and nothing more, but Gamache smells something foul in these remote woods, and is soon certain that Jane Neal died at the hands of someone much more sinister than a careless bowhunter. Still Life introduces not only an engaging series hero in Inspector Gamache, who commands his forces - and this series - with integrity and quiet courage, but also a winning and talented new writer of traditional mysteries in the person of Louise Penny.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

When the body of an elderly woman is discovered in the woods outside the idyllic hamlet of Three Pines, the first assumption is that this is the result of a tragic hunting accident. Unfortunately, in the world of mystery novels, nothing is ever as cut and dried as it seems. *Still Life* is the first novel by Louise Penny. The book was published in 2007, and the twelfth book in the series will be published in August of this year. This should give you some indication of both the series' success, and the work ethic of the author. The book introduces the title character, Armand Gamache, a chief inspector of the Surintendant des Quatre Rivières, as he seeks to solve a murder in a small village near Montreal. The village itself, and

its eclectic denizens, becomes a character in the book, quirky and unique, always providing some background movement to draw the eye. The setting in a small village in the Canadian province of Quebec also adds interest, as Penny delves (a little bit) into the tensions, and friendships, between francophone and anglophone Québécois. The supporting characters are also incredibly well done. From the strange and eccentric citizens of Three Pines, to the police officers tasked with solving the murder, each character is uniquely realized and speaks with a distinct voice. However, Penny tends to rely heavily on exposition to advance her characters in the story, rather than dialogue. Characters' thought lines tend to spell out exactly how they are reacting to situations that arise in the book, rather than letting the subtext of their actions or dialogue advance the plot. The style is clunky and a bit disappointing, but hopefully can be chalked up to inexperience on the author's part. (I certainly hope so, I started the second book in the series, *A Fatal Grace*, yesterday. I'll keep you all posted) The mystery itself is satisfying, red herrings and false flags abound. And while the clues to solving the mystery are there to be found, they don't slap the reader in the face and scream "look at me!" This (I find) is a hard line for mystery writers to walk. Make the resolution too obscure, or the clues happen off screen, and the end is unsatisfying and feels tacked on. Telegraph the important stuff too loudly, and the mystery is solved by the read way too early, and takes a lot of the fun out of the read. Louise Penny does a great job sprinkling bits and pieces around, but blends them expertly into the background. It's only when you go back and think about it that you put the pieces together. In all, this is a satisfying "cozy-type" mystery, great for an afternoon's read (and it is currently beach-reading season). The book is generally well written (barring the clunky exposition I mentioned earlier), and the characters engaging enough to encourage you to jump directly into the sequel. I also have to say that Penny captures the northeastern landscape in fall closely enough to cause some homesickness in this transplanted New Englander. Check out more reviews by checking out my blog! [...]

If you love a mystery series then dig into Louise Penny's Detective Gamache books. Best to start with number one and they do progress in the story lines. These are not Le Carre caliber at all. Think "Agatha Raisin". They are light as a feather and are centered in a delightful town outside Montreal. All of the atmosphere is French Canadian. The descriptions of the food, the town and the characters make me want to move to the fictional Three Pines right now. A murder is the glue that holds each book together. If you want to get your mind off the big, bad world, these do the trick. That's what I used them for. Louise Penny books are a guilty pleasure that serve a good purpose.

Still Life, by Louise Penny is the first of the Chief Inspector Gamache stories. I'm stuck now, wanting to read them all. The characters in her books are so intriguing and unusual. The murder in this book was shocking and leads the reader to really care about the characters and try hard to figure out who done it! Three Pines is the little, cozy town way away from big cities, with town's people that have been there from family to family. Lots of history in the village. The Chief Inspector falls in love with the ambiance of that little town and loves spending time there, albeit on a case of murder that will curl your toes. You'll most likely enjoy Louise Penny's way of writing. She draws you in with details that spur your imagination and make you care about the characters she's created. I'm determined now to invest in one book after the other till I have them all under my belt. Enjoy! See Gee

I am ordering the next books in the series! Inspector Gamache is sent to a small town to cover the death of an elderly lady - was it an accident or a murder? I loved the characters and the setting of the story. I felt like I really got to know the characters, and I want to take a trip Three Pines and meet them all :) The story is a good mystery - the investigation is well done

These are a little ponderous, but they're gentle mysteries with likable characters--good for a winter snow storm with a cat curled up in your lap or a dog sleeping at your feet. They're not great literature, but they're pleasant when you're in the mood for something unchallenging and well-told.. You'll figure out whodunit long before the detectives, but they're still comfortable reads Sometimes, you just want to spend time with likable characters who don't make you work too hard.

My first time reading a Louise Penny book. I enjoyed it...so much that I'm now on the 3rd book in the Inspector Gamache series. Her writing is humorous, serious, descriptive and keeps me interested. I'm loving the characters in the books. Also, I've learned some interesting facts that are tied in to the stories. I have a feeling I'm going to continue reading the next and the next and the next book ! When I get myself all comfy and pull out my Kindle, it's like visiting with old friends.

I really enjoyed reading this book about Detective Armond Gamache solving a mysterious death of an elderly, beloved woman in Three Pines, Quebec. Louise Penny has such a nice way of describing the characters in the story that the reader really feels for them and really likes the Detective. It is a page turner as the author keeps you guessing about who done it! I would

recommend this book and am looking forward to reading more of Louise Penny's books.

Well-plotted, suspenseful and humane, but with some occasionally hamfisted characterizations. A villain is 'mincing', the bookseller is one of Spike Lee's Magical Negroes, and the gays sing It's Raining Men when they aren't busy antiquing...Still it's a lovely, well-meaning and gripping book and I will probably read more of them. Gamache makes you wish for a SÃfÆ'Ã Â»retÃfÂ© filled with only-Gamaches.

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