



The Cruellest Month: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel

By Louise Penny

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"Many mystery buffs have credited Louise Penny with the revival of the type of traditional murder mystery made famous by Agatha Christie. . . . The book's title is a metaphor not only for the month of April but also for Gamache's personal and professional challenges---making this the series standout so far." --Sarah Weinman

Welcome to Three Pines, where the cruellest month is about to deliver on its threat.

It's spring in the tiny, forgotten village; buds are on the trees and the first flowers are struggling through the newly thawed earth. But not everything is meant to return to life. . .

When some villagers decide to celebrate Easter with a séance at the Old Hadley House, they are hoping to rid the town of its evil---until one of their party dies of fright. Was this a natural death, or was the victim somehow helped along? Brilliant, compassionate Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec is called to investigate, in a case that will force him to face his own ghosts as well as those of a seemingly idyllic town where relationships are far more dangerous than they seem.

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The Cruellest Month: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel By Louise Penny Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Chief Insp. Armand Gamache and his team investigate another bizarre crime in the tiny Québec village of Three Pines in Penny's expertly plotted third cozy (after 2007's *A Fatal Grace*). As the townspeople gather in the abandoned and perhaps haunted Hadley house for a séance with a visiting psychic, Madeleine Favreau collapses, apparently dead of fright. No one has a harsh word to say about Madeleine, but Gamache knows there's more to the case than meets the eye. Complicating his inquiry are the repercussions of Gamache having accused his popular superior at the Sûreté du Québec of heinous crimes in a previous case. Fearing there might be a mole on his team, Gamache works not only to solve the murder but to clear his name. Arthur Ellis Award-winner Penny paints a vivid picture of the French-Canadian village, its inhabitants and a determined detective who will strike many Agatha Christie fans as a 21st-century version of Hercule Poirot. (*Mar.*)

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Review

“With its small-town hominess, the Canadian village of Three Pines draws the reader into its quaint traditions. Who wouldn't be charmed by the dramas of a community where Easter egg hunts and socials at the bed and breakfast are the most exciting events?”

?*People*

“Mystery readers who want more than puzzles and thrills look for serious purpose and literary value, and Canadian writer Louise Penny provides both in spades - and hearts.”

?*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

“Louise Penny is almost single handedly taking us back to the good old days of the traditional village mystery. Influenced by Simenon, Christie, and Sayers before her, Penny is doing them all one better....THE CRUELEST MONTH soars above them all.”

?*Mystery News* (5 quills out of 5)

“Penny's plotting has been compared to Agatha Christie's, and indeed she follows the same method of tossing out so many clues that the few salient ones are impossible to single out. But it's more about the journey than the destination in these wonderful books full of poetry, and weather, and a brooding manor house, and people who read and think and laugh and eat a lot of really excellent food. Move over, Mitford.”

?*Charlotte Observer*

“Arthur Ellis Award-winner Penny paints a vivid picture of the French-Canadian village, its inhabitants and a determined detective who will strike many Agatha Christie fans as a 21st-century version of Hercule Poirot.”

?*Publishers Weekly* (starred)

“Penny is an award-winning writer whose cozies go beyond traditional boundaries, providing entertaining characters, a picturesque locale, and thought-provoking plots. Highly recommended.”

?*Library Journal* (starred)

“Perhaps the deftest talent to arrive since Minette Walters, Penny produces what many have tried but few

have mastered: a psychologically acute cozy. If you don't give your heart to Gamache, you may have no heart to give."

?*Kirkus Reviews* (starred)

From the Back Cover

It's spring in the tiny, forgotten village of Three Pines.

But not everything is meant to return to life...

When a group of villagers decide to celebrate Easter with a séance at the Old Hadley House, they are hoping to rid the town of its evil—until one of their party dies of fright. Was this a natural death? Or was the victim somehow helped along?

THE CRUELEST MONTH

Enter Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. He knows evil when he sees it. But this time, he's investigating a case that will force him to face his very own ghosts...as well as those residing in this seemingly idyllic town. Are the residents of Three Pines hiding something great and sinister about their past? Or is April about to deliver on its fateful threat?

"If you don't give your heart to Gamache, you may have no heart to give."—*Kirkus Review* (starred review)

"Penny takes exquisite care to create, flesh out, and nurture."—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"The cozy mystery has a graceful practitioner...in Louise Penny."—*The New York Times*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Austin Barnes:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a reserve your ability to survive improve then having chance to remain than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this specific The Cruellest Month: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel book as nice and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Gilbert Pellerin:

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Jason Davis:

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