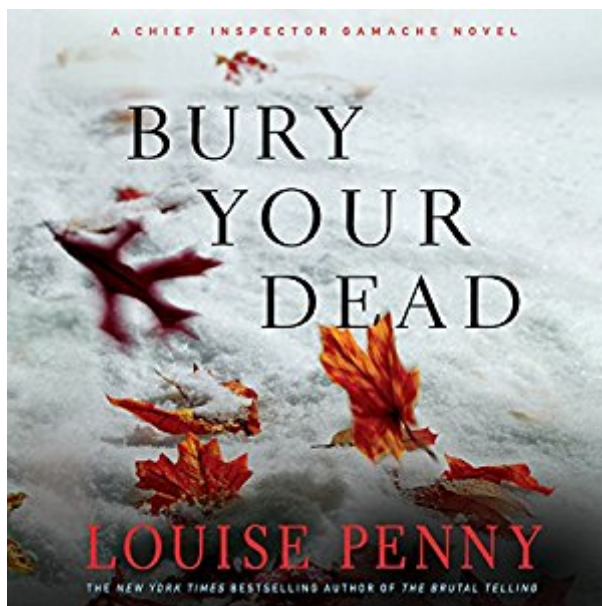


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Bury Your Dead: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel



Synopsis

It is Winter Carnival in Quebec City, bitterly cold and surpassingly beautiful. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache has come not to join the revels but to recover from an investigation gone hauntingly wrong. But violent death is inescapable, even in the apparent sanctuary of the Literary and Historical Society - where an obsessive historian's quest for the remains of the founder of Quebec, Samuel de Champlain, ends in murder. Could a secret buried with Champlain for nearly 400 years be so dreadful that someone would kill to protect it? Although he is supposed to be on leave, Gamache cannot walk away from a crime that threatens to ignite long-smoldering tensions between the English and the French. Meanwhile, he is receiving disquieting letters from the village of Three Pines, where beloved Bistro owner Olivier was recently convicted of murder. "It doesn't make sense," Olivier's partner writes every day. "He didn't do it, you know." As past and present collide in this astonishing novel, Gamache must relive the terrible event of his own past before he can bury his dead.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is a fact that no one knows where Samuel de Champlain, the founder of Quebec and Canada, is buried. No one really knows what he looked like. But as the founder of the first colony in Canada (or New France), Champlain has remained a powerful figure in Canadian politics, and Quebec separatism. And it is these facts about Champlain that form the heart of Louise Penny's *Bury Your Dead*, the sixth Chief

Inspector Armand Gamache mystery. I'm not sure how Penny does it, but each of these Gamache mysteries is better than the one before it. *Bury Your Dead* is downright dazzling; Penny tells the story of four mysteries simultaneously and successfully pulls it off. The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec is something of an anomaly. It is a library and historical society, but it is an Anglo society in the heart of Old Quebec. Its board is mostly older men and women, and the library is generally a quiet place, deliberately maintaining something of a low profile. The body of an amateur archaeologist is found in the society's dirt-floor basement.

He's been bludgeoned with a shovel. This particular archaeologist had a mania for finding the burial place of Champlain, and has had a reputation for some spectacular failures. Champlain is one mystery; the murder is the second. The third is what Chief Inspector Gamache of the Quebec Surete is doing, spending time with his old boss. And it isn't a simple friendly visit. Gamache is recovering from a police operation that went very badly. During a routine traffic stop, a policeman had been killed and a young officer, one of Gamache's own, taken prisoner. And all we know at the beginning is that Gamache is recovering, including from his own physical wounds. Gamache's right-hand man, Detective Jean-Guy Bouvier, is also recovering from his physical wounds. He is in the village of Three Pines, sent there by Gamache, to see if they arrested the wrong man for murder, the story of "The Brutal Telling." The man was convicted and sent to prison. But Gamache knows the mistakes he made with the police operation, and he knows a mistake may have been made in Three Pines. Four mysteries in all: where Champlain is buried; the murder in the society's basement; the police operation gone badly; and the case in Three Pines. Not all are connected, and Penny masterfully unfolds and weaves together each of them. It's history, mystery, police procedure, and the uncovering of human emotions and passions all rolled into one overall story. And it's an excellent read.

I should admit, upfront that I am not really a reader of detective stories and, anyway, there are enough reviews here that discuss Louise Penny's skill as a writer of this genre in all its facets. It was also my first encounter of Penny's delightful, pondering Armand Gamache. I enjoyed *BURY YOUR DEAD* for reasons that, mostly, may not fall within the usual framework. I was in Quebec City while reading this story and with time on my hands. So I followed Gamache's walks from the Chateau Frontenac and the Promenade, overlooking the St. Laurence River, to the narrow alleys that reveal what used to be the Anglophone section of Old Quebec... It was a delight: the author's descriptions

give you more than the landmarks, a lot more. These are interesting enough and the book is one of the best guides of that part of Old Quebec you can find, with a good introduction into its local history, and recommended cafes and much more. I drank coffee in one and pondered dinner in another. But back to the story at the centre of the events. The case that Gamache is asked to involve himself with - inofficially as he is on leave to recover from the dramas of a recent case that didn't go the way the experienced detective had imagined it should. Somebody has been murdered in the basement archives of the English Literary Society, a venerable institution established in the 1830s. The Anglo community is nervous about the circumstances of the death in their building that is not publicly accessible and about the person who was murdered... the plot thickens and even if you can guess who is behind the crime, the revelation is done in a circuitous and interesting way. History, going back to the Founding Father of Quebec, is at the centre of it all. Well done! Those readers familiar with Armand Gamache will know how much he enjoys his coffee, food and drink at the right time as much as a good conversation that reaches far beyond the case at hand, any previous case not quite concluded, and into philosophy, religion and, of course, history. For me, wandering around Old Quebec, this book will keep a special place and Armand will have enough of a pull to try another one of Penny's stories. [Friederike Knabe]

I am working my way through every book in this series and I am loving all of them. I feel like I know the people and the locales now. I also like the bits of French scattered throughout. It adds to the ambience and generally the meaning of the phrase is clear. There's one inside joke in this book that I think probably only makes sense if you speak French, however. Maybe someone can enlighten me. It has to do with an English speaking librarian butchering French and creating nonsensical statements - and I'm sure it would be funny if I knew French.

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