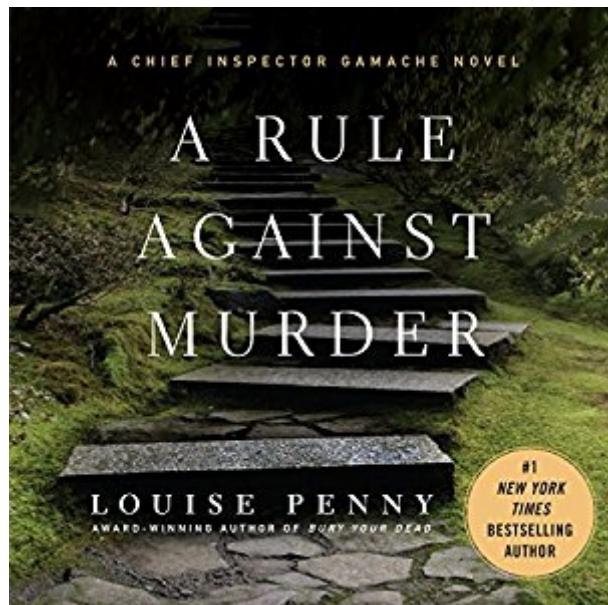


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A Rule Against Murder: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel



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

First Sentence: More than a century ago the Robber Barons discovered Lac Massawippi. Inspector Armand Gamache and his wife Reine-Marie have come to Manoir Bellechasse where they've come for more than 30 years to celebrate their wedding anniversary. They find the rest of the rooms in the small hotel reserved by members of the Finney family. A surprise comes when the Gamache's

discover two members of the Finney family are their friends Peter and Clara from Three Pines. It becomes a busman's holiday when one of the daughters is found dead under a newly installed memorial statue of her father. There is a much deeper layer to Ms. Penny's books than the normal mystery--one that makes you think and then question those thoughts; to look at things in a new way and see them differently. Ms. Penny employs incredible imagery as well as poetry interspersed through the story, and wonderful humor. Characters are another great strength of Ms. Perry. Gamache is a man of many layers. We learn much more of his personal history. I love his relationship to his wife and his investigative team. The members of his team each have their own strengths and perspectives with the cumulative result of solving their cases. The Finney family members and hotel employees are just as well drawn. Each character is significant to the story. Ms. Penny also includes a bit of history of Quebec with an interesting perspective on the success of the Quebecois in the 1960 and that many of the young people left Quebec as they didn't speak French and found it difficult to get work. "They lost their children for the sake of a language." None of this overshadows the quality of the mystery itself. It is tightly plotted, intricate and clever with some excellent suspense.

It is summertime in Louise Penny's "A Rule Against Murder." Armand Gamache and his wife, Reine-Marie, are celebrating their wedding anniversary as they do every year, in the luxurious Manoir Bellechasse, "one of the finest auberges in Quebec." Its isolated location, beautiful lakeside view, and well-tended gardens make the Manoir the perfect retreat for weary guests. Visitors to the lodge know that they will be pampered by solicitous employees who anticipate their every need, and that they will enjoy delicious meals expertly prepared by a master chef. What the Gamaches do not know is that they will be thrown together with a horribly dysfunctional family consisting of seven people: an arrogant matriarch, Irene Finney, her second husband, Bert, Irene's four children, Thomas, Julia, Peter, and Marianna, and Marianna's ten-year-old child, Bean. The Gamaches are disconcerted by the contemptuous manner in which the Finneys and Morrows treat one another. When one of them is found killed, Armand reveals that he is Chief Inspector Gamache, the head of homicide for the Sûreté du Québec. He senses that the palpable tension among the Morrows and Finneys stems from long-held secrets and grudges. However, at first, Gamache and his subordinates, Inspector Jean Guy Beauvoir and Agent Isabelle Lacoste, have no idea who committed the murder and why. The chief inspector is a civilized and caring person with a keen understanding of how the criminal mind works. He discerns subtle clues and feelings that less talented investigators often overlook. This time, unfortunately, even Gamache is flabbergasted by a

strange crime with very little evidence and a group of suspects, all of whom had motive, means, and opportunity to commit murder.

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