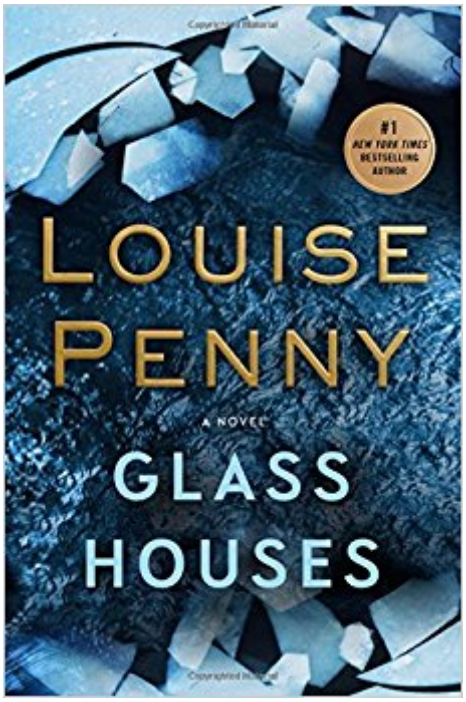
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Glass Houses: A Novel (Chief Inspector Gamache Novel)



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Synopsis

An August 2017 LibraryReads pick!When a mysterious figure appears in Three Pines one cold November day, Armand Gamache and the rest of the villagers are at first curious. Then wary. Through rain and sleet, the figure stands unmoving, staring ahead.From the moment its shadow falls over the village, Gamache, now Chief Superintendent of the SÃƒÂ»retÃƒÂ© du QuÃƒÂ©bec, suspects the creature has deep roots and a dark purpose. Yet he does nothing. What can he do? Only watch and wait. And hope his mounting fears are not realized. But when the figure vanishes overnight and a body is discovered, it falls to Gamache to discover if a debt has been paid or levied.Months later, on a steamy July day as the trial for the accused begins in MontrÃƒÂ©al, Chief Superintendent Gamache continues to struggle with actions he set in motion that bitter November, from which there is no going back. More than the accused is on trial. GamacheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own conscience is standing in judgment.In Glass Houses, her latest utterly gripping book, number-one New York Times bestselling author Louise Penny shatters the conventions of the crime novel to explore what Gandhi called the court of conscience. A court that supersedes all others.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The tension has never been greater...A meticulously built mystery that follows a careful ascent toward a breaking point that will leave you breathless. It’s Three Pines as you have never seen it before." --Kirkus Reviews (starred review)"Three Pines is a sublime metaphor for the precariousness of harmony wherever we find it...one of the most entrancing fictional worlds in popular literature."--Booklist (starred review)"The award-winning Penny does not rest on her laurels

with this challenging and timely book. Though touched by the evils of the outside world, Three Pines remains a singular place away from time." --Library Journal (starred review)"An exciting, high-stakes climax." -- Publishers Weekly

LOUISE PENNY is the author of the #1 New York Times and Globe and Mail bestselling series of Chief Inspector Armand Gamache novels (Still Life, A Fatal Grace, and The Cruelest Month). She has won numerous awards, including a CWA Dagger and the Agatha Award (six times), and was a finalist for the Edgar Award for Best Novel. In 2017, she received the Order of Canada for her contributions to Canadian culture. Louise lives in a small village south of MontrÃƒÂ©al.

During a cold November in Three Pines a dark mysterious figure - draped in black with a mask and never moving - appears in the green. Every day this figure is there - watching someone but who? WhoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s wearing this mask and cape? Why is it there? Does it represent Death?Armand Ganache is now the Chief Superintendent of the SÃƒÆ'Ã Â»retÃƒÂ© du QuÃƒÂ©bec. He knows that legally he canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t do anything about that figure in the green. But that doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t stop him from being worried that something could happen. And yes, what he worries about happens - someone is murdered.ThereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a lot going on here, with Gamache dealing with the murder and also with his duties as head of the SÃƒÆ'Ã Â»retÃƒÂ© du QuÃƒÂ©bec (as readers of the previous novels will remember that the SÃƒÆ'Ã Â»retÃƒÂ© had a corruption problem that Gamache exposed.) The regulars from Three Pines are here (Gabri, Clara, Myrna, Ruth and her duck Rosa), though not as much as youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d expect considering that this is Three Pines. Unlike her previous novels, here the action switches between November when the incidents start and we see Gamache trying to determine who the killer is, and July, when the trial begins for the accused begins.This is a standalone novel. There really isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t much information from previous novels that you need to understand the relationships. However, if you havenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t read any Armand Gamache novels, I recommend you start with her first novel - Still Life - to really enjoy the series.Reading a Louise Penny/Inspector Gamache novel is always a treat. Yes, thereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a lot going on but the author does a wonderful job of pulling it all together.So, why not 5 stars? I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t want to say too much as much of the joy of the books in this series is how disparate plot points come together but I found myself frustrated that once again we have the clever Armand Gamache looking like heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s in over his head. I enjoy more complicated murder plots versus a simpler murder plot plus another story line.

There were some plot points that seemed a stretch. (All I could think was "Really? This is all happening in Three Pines??") I thought this book was darker than some of her other books. I found myself putting the book down - needing a break from reading it.While this is one of those books that IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m glad I read, unlike some of the other books in the series, I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t see myself reading it again.

I consider myself fortunate to have read all the Inspector Gamache novels by Louise Penny. Her writing is beautiful and her characters are so well written and so appreciated, flaws and all. In this novel Inspector Gamache has taken over as head of the Surete after rooting out top level corruption. The police officers seem proud of their work again....or are they? There are rumblings that Gamache hasn't really changed anything as crime is up, the drug trade is rampant and what is to be done? The quiet (haha) village of Three Pines is disturbed by the presence of a hooded, quiet, dark figure. The figure doesn't speak, just stands and stares. It's a "cobrador", a conscience. A figure from old Spain which follows a person as a visible conscience. One version of the cobrador is a debt collector, to shame the person into paying their debt. But the cobrador in this story is a moral conscience. You must atone for what you have done. This blends into the second story of the drug trade and Gamache's plan to really put a dent in it, if not stop/slow it down for good. It's very well plotted out. I won't say much more as I feel it will reveal too much. Will Gamache's long range plan succeed or fail? Will his inspectors stay the course with him? And then there's Claire the artist, whose friends think she's 'lost it'. Claire is preparing for another show and her friends fear all her work is unfinished until they look and look and see what it is that she has done. I enjoyed that twist immensely. I do feel one should read the books in order as the characters evolve. Also, you don't want to miss Ms Penny's remarkable writing.

I'm an avid mystery reader and a devout Louise Penny reader. I was ecstatic to get a chance to read this pre-release and I was not disappointed.Three Pines and Inspector Gamache never disappoint. More than just a mystery - this is a book that takes you into the characters, challenges your assumptions and leaves you wondering who is as they appear, and who is genuine. I loved this latest in her series - as expected she picked up from recent events in the prior novel and goes to the task of writing a story that is both compelling and puzzling.A mysterious figure appears in Three Pines only to be followed by death. The story flashes between the current time - summer in Montreal, and the previous chilly fall. As she toggles between the two timelines, she weaves the tale around you, pulling you in slowly with interesting detail and surprises at turns. Separate plot lines

and stories - seemingly disparate - tie together so beautifully, and the core mystery at heart of it all is beautifully revealed. She surprised me with the defendant on trial, and the ultimate set of villains in this book, while bringing along my favorite characters and developing them further. This book again touches on the personal relationship between Gamache and Beauvoir - co-workers, mentor-mentee, and father-in-law/son-in-law. It also touches on friendships and what can haunt long standing relationships.Around all of the rich dialogue, descriptive food, and comfortable atmosphere of our beloved cast of characters, she introduces some characters you don’t know quite know to trust. I love how she references the state of the world and a broad ranging diversity with her characters. People with drug abuse, distrust of the police and their competence, the hard working and dedicated law enforcement officers, politicians you don’t quite want to trust, and couples living marriage equality. She doesn’t disappoint with strong lead female characters including a new lead officer - Superintendent Touissaint as well as an old favorite - Isabel Lacoste. Women in roles that aren’t traditionally highlighted, is awesome to see. Its something I appreciate as she has characters and references to current events that capture the timeliness of today.This was a page turner for me. I found myself saving the book until I knew I had a few days over the course of which I could read and enjoy this book. I was not disappointed.New readers can truly enjoy this series from the beginning with Still Life.

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