



## The Hangman

*Louise Penny*

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## **The Hangman** Louise Penny

On a cold November morning, a jogger runs through the woods in the peaceful Quebec village of Three Pines. On his run, he finds a dead man hanging from a tree.

The dead man was a guest at the local Inn and Spa. He might have been looking for peace and quiet, but something else found him. Something horrible.

Did the man take his own life? Or was he murdered? Chief Inspector Armand Gamache is called to the crime scene. As Gamache follows the trail of clues, he opens a door into the past. And he learns the true reason why the man came to Three Pines.

## **The Hangman Details**

Date : Published 2010 by Grass Roots Press

ISBN : 9781926583242

Author : Louise Penny

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## **From Reader Review The Hangman for online ebook**

### **Carol says**

So cold and damp in Quebec....just like here, Brrrrr....and a man is hanging in a tree in front of Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Quebec Provincial Police.

Lies and falsified names muddle the clues, but not enough for Inspector Garmache and sidekick Inspector Beauvoir to find the guilty party.

Super short little murder-mystery. Fun returning to Three Pines and reading Louise Penny again.

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### **Carolyn F. says**

#### **Short story**

I was so disappointed with this short story. It was like the author wanted to make a Christie-like story and failed miserably. I just didn't enjoy it at all and I usually love this series. :(

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### **Mrsgaskell says**

This is a short (87 pages) novella written for a special series of books sponsored by a Canadian literacy organisation. They're all by Canadian authors, use simple, clear language, and are less than a hundred pages. I read this book because I will read anything that features the Quebec village of Three Pines and Inspector Armand Gamache.

Although it doesn't have the depth of the novels, this was a very good story. A body is found hanging from a tree in the woods near the village of Three Pines. Inspector Gamache is called to investigate. Was this suicide or murder? The victim was staying at the Inn and Spa in Three Pines, registered under the name Arthur Ellis. This just happens to be (really) the pseudonym that was used by Canada's official hangman, and through Myrna, the used book store owner in Three Pines, Gamache learns that the Crime Writers of Canada give out Arthur Ellis awards. What was the victim's real identity and why was he in Three Pines? Besides Myrna, the only regular village residents we meet are Gabri and Dominique. And from Gamache's team only Beauvoir shows up. This book stands alone well and since it makes no mention of some of the dramatic incidents and development of the latest novels, readers who skip this will not really miss out anything necessary to following the series. Having said that, I enjoyed it very much and am glad I read it in spite of the limitations of the format.

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## **Melissa Lee says**

Rating: 3.5/5

The Hangman is part of a collection of short stories that is geared towards encouraging people to read. At under 100 pages, I picked this up for a read-a-thon and flew through it.

The Chief Inspector Armand Gamache series has been on my TBR for quite a while now, so I was pleasantly surprised when I came across this at my local library.

This was a fairly simple story, in the ‘locked room’ style. However instead of a ‘locked room’ it was set in a secluded town called Three Pines. The author included a detailed backstory for the suspects that fit well into its short length. Although I did enjoy it, I wish that there were more clues throughout instead of having the reader find out many facts when the truth is revealed. I am hopeful that the full length installments for the Armand Gamache series will allow for more of a build up.

I recommend The Hangman to mystery fans who are looking for a quick read.

To read more of my reviews, please visit my blog:

<https://mlsredhousereviews.wordpress....>

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## **Cathrine ?? says**

In the throes of a reading slump and scrolling through *available now* on Overdrive this one comes up. Just perfect for a one hour bedtime story to get me through the night when nothing else was calling out to me. Murder a la carte for Inspector Gamache in Three Pines. I guess he was in a bit of a slump as well and needed something easy to solve.

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## **Ivonne Rovira says**

Author Louise Penny is not only a wonderful author but a genuinely good person. At the request of ABC Life Literacy Canada, Penny penned *The Hangman* to very particular specifications for its Good Reads Books selection (not to be confused with this website). These books serve adults with reading difficulties and, therefore, adhere to simpler vocabulary and a 100-page limit. It's an incredibly admirable goal: to provide intelligently written books that are accessible to all reading levels.

That's why it hurts me to have to admit that *The Hangman* simply doesn't measure up to Penny's usual fare. Forget about matching *The Brutal Telling* or *A Rule Against Murder*. *The Hanging* doesn't even rise to the level of *A Fatal Grace*, the second book in the Gamache series and — until now — the weakest.

True-blue Gamache fans, like me, will want to read *The Hangman*, as will readers who are still building up their vocabulary and skill. Others will want to give *The Hangman* a pass. For Armand Gamache fans, the novella is set early in the series, before *The Brutal Telling*, when the spa at Three Pines was still open.

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### **Pat says**

A nice short novella published for Canada's Good Reads program. If you are a fan of Three Pines, then take an evening and read a good old-fashioned murder mystery with some wonderful characters from this small (unfortunately fictional) town.

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### **Margaret says**

3.5/5

Published in 2010 by Grass Roots Press, Louise Penny's very short novella is a complete mystery published as part of the Good Reads division of ABC Life Literacy Canada. The book is written at about a third grade reading level and is intended for adult learners. It is not a book for third graders; it's for adults who are just learning to read and are reading at the third grade level. As a volunteer for Literacy Volunteers of America, I was very excited to come across this book (Penny is a personal favorite) and this press, as it publishes quite a variety of books for adults who read at second to fourth or fifth grade levels. I work with students who will appreciate it.

As for the book itself, despite its mere 87 pages with large print, it is a complete Gamache novel, which takes place in Three Pines. The number of town residents in the book is fewer (only Myra and Gabri appear) than usual and only Jean-Guy Beauvoir from the police force assists. But there is a murder and there are clues, and it all makes sense. I enjoyed reading it myself, and I recommend it highly for anyone who knows any adult learning to read who also loves a good mystery.

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### **Linda says**

I love the raison d'être of The Hangman.

From Louise Penny:

In fact, I wrote THE HANGMAN a couple of years ago as part of GoodReads Canada - an initiative for adult emerging readers. The idea is to give adults who are improving their literacy skills adult books to read - so they don't have to read children's books. It's a wonderful idea - one that started, I believe, in the UK and has since spread. THE HANGMAN is in fact a novella - written intentionally at a grade 3 level...simple words and sentences, but adult themes. It's set in Three Pines and is a mystery featuring Gamache.

From me:

She accomplished her goal beautifully. While, it cannot be as nuanced and complex as the Three Pines mysteries which I love, it's a good mystery for adults working on their literacy skills, and it stays true to the detectives and to the Three Pines characters.

3.5 stars

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### **Sharon says**

Very short story about a hanging in Three Pines. Nice to see Gamache again. Didn't get to visit with the whole town. Easy, short, nice read.

Reread while on vacation, always good to return to Three Pines.

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### **Margritte says**

I did not pick up anywhere, when buying this book, that this was a short novel/novella, neither was I aware that the story was written at the request of ABC Life Literacy Canada, for its Good Reads Books selection. The aim was to provide books for adults with reading difficulties.

Reviewed as such it worked. It is a fast-paced, simplified story of a man found hanging from a tree outside Three Pines. At first glance it looked like a suicide, but Chief Inspector Armand Gamache did not think so and he proved his theory of a murder.

One reviewer said it is admissible for Louise Penny fans, but for other readers it would be a waste of time. I totally agree. The story had an interesting plot though. But that was all it was. An outline for a story. The bare basics of a novel.

Nowhere is it mentioned in the book that it is a short novel and what the purpose is. That omission gets the stars falling to the ground like snow flakes in my rating. I have no problem with the noble idea behind the reading project at all. But why present it as a 'normal' Louise Penny novel to the rest of the world who do not participate in the project?! It should not be mentioned at the back of the book, but right on the first page of the publication. It should be mentioned in the blurb as well.

I have the greatest respect for authors participating in the project:

*Good Reads books are ideal for people on the go, who want a short read; who want to experience the joy of reading; who want to get into the reading habit.* However I have a huge problem with misrepresentation particularly in a blurb.

Since I expect the usual richness of plot, place and people, I would not have bought this book if I knew. It is not the kind of Louise Penny book I would want to purchase and read.

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### **Ronna says**

I'm not a big fan of short stories or novellas because they never seem to go further than an outline type story, but I loved this novella by Louise Penny. When a man is found dead, hanging from a tree in Three Pines, Chief Inspector Gamache must decide whether this is a suicide or a murder. Everything points to murder, but

the man has left a suicide note in his room at the Inn and Spa. The man's past will determine the answer.

One of the best things about Penny's stories is her little gems that are thrown into her books. For example: "He sounds so normal. Seemed so normal. Gamache had to agree. But he also knew normal people were killed all the time. It was the murderer who wasn't normal."

Though this is not supposed to a necessary part of the Three Pine series, I suggest all serious Armond Gamache fans read this book. And, who that has ever read one of Louise Penny's books, is not now a true fan of this series?!?

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### **Rick says**

Written for a Canadian literary project for new adult readers, this short mystery is a wonderful, quick introduction to Penny's Quebec-set mysteries.

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### **Jim says**

I decided to read all of the books in the Chief Inspector Armand Gamache series and this was the next one. This really isn't a book. It is a novella. 96 pages on Kindle. So it is a quick read. It was a fun and enjoyable little read. It really pales in comparison to the other books in the series but if your goal is to read everything in the series . . .

A jogger discovers the body of a man hanging from a tree outside the village of Three Pines. Both the jogger and the dead man were guests at the local Inn and Spa. Did the victim commit suicide? Or was he murdered? These are the questions Chief Inspector Armand Gamache is confronted with as he investigates the death. Why was he visiting Three Pines? As he investigates Gamache discovers lots of lies. Even the victim's life seems to be a lie.

This would probably be a good book to read if you are waiting in an airport or relaxing on a beach. Or maybe sitting in a bistro enjoying a café au lait and a pastry. It is definitely a stand alone story and regular readers of the series wouldn't miss much if they skip this one. Unless you are obsessive and want to say you read everything in the series.

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### **Gwyneth Stewart says**

Reading this story was a little like encountering dear friends you haven't seen in a long time at a large party. It's great to see them, but you don't really have a chance for a satisfying visit. This is a straight to ebook novella features an interesting enough mystery, with a number of twists in spite of its brevity. What's missing, though, are the things that make the Three Pines mysteries so wonderful to read--the nuanced and very human characters, their developing relationships with each other, and detailed picture that evolves through the books of the village of Three Pines. I missed all that, and am glad that the next full length novel in this series is coming out later this month.

