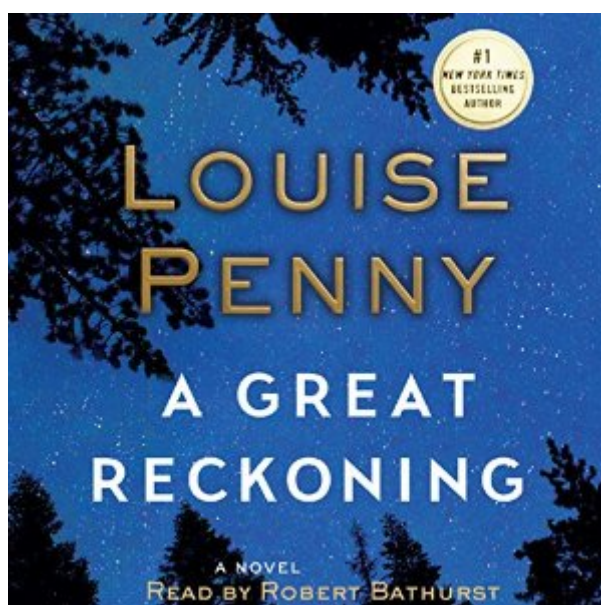


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A Great Reckoning: A Novel



Synopsis

When an intricate old map is found stuffed into the walls of the bistro in Three Pines, it at first seems no more than a curiosity. But the closer the villagers look, the stranger it becomes. Given to Armand Gamache as a gift the first day of his new job, the map eventually leads him to shattering secrets. To an old friend and older adversary. It leads the former Chief of Homicide for the *Sûreté* du Québec to places even he is afraid to go. But must. And there he finds four young cadets in the *Sûreté* academy, and a dead professor. And, with the body, a copy of the old, odd map. Everywhere Gamache turns, he sees Amelia Choquet, one of the cadets. Tattooed and pierced. Guarded and angry. Amelia is more likely to be found on the other side of a police line-up. And yet she is in the academy. A protégée of the murdered professor. The focus of the investigation soon turns to Gamache himself and his mysterious relationship with Amelia, and his possible involvement in the crime. The frantic search for answers takes the investigators back to Three Pines and a stained glass window with its own horrific secrets. For both Amelia Choquet and Armand Gamache, the time has come for a great reckoning. #1 New York Times bestselling author Louise Penny pulls back the layers to reveal a brilliant and emotionally powerful truth in her latest spellbinding audiobook. "Robert Bathurst puts his own indelible stamp on Chief Inspector Armand Gamache in Louise Penny's twelfth Three Pines puzzle. ...If you haven't listened to this series, start at once. You'll love your stay in Three Pines." - AudioFile Magazine

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the 12th..12th! installment in the Inspector Gamache series by Louise Penny. Her works are

such a pleasure to read, her talent to convey emotion and set up a mystery make this a page turner. Inspector Gamache has come out of retirement to take charge of the Surete academy. In the last novel we found out that the corruption Gamache exposed within the Surete has deeper roots which begin with cadet training at the academy. Once again the fictional Three Pines where Inspector Gamache has retired with his wife Reine Marie and charming dog Henri offers a mystery for the Inspector. He uses this as a training exercise for four cadets, two new and two senior cadets. An old map is found, a connection to the stained glass window in the church is seen and the cadets must find out who drew this map? What is it for? What type of map is this? Why was it hidden? The Inspector makes several decisions which change the way things are done at the academy but some people, including himself, question his decisions. One of which is accepting a most unlikely new recruit, Amelia Choquet. Who is she? What, if anything has she to do with the Inspector? The former Commander of the academy is kept on as a professor, and what happens to him is the main mystery of the story. Interesting is that another professor talks a lot about misdirection and Ms Penny uses this herself to make you question who is really doing what. The main characters from Three Pines; Clara, Oliver, Gabi, Myrna, Ruth (and her duck) contribute to the story but are more in the background in this novel. The setting alternate between Three Pines and the academy. Once again the reader is exposed to the depth of maturity, compassion and intellect of Inspector Gamache and how all these qualities are hard won.

Book #12 opens with Armand Gamache ready to step out of retirement, but not back into the Sûreté du Québec, at least not directly. Gamache's new position will involve the training of the next generation of Sûreté officers, and weeding out the detritus left by years of corruption and mismanagement. The transition is a troubled one, and there is a murder. Meanwhile, back in Three Pines there is another mystery brewing, one that has half the village playing amateur detective. An old map found in the walls of the Bistro has everyone puzzled. What first appears to be a whimsical and inconsequential piece of artwork turns out to hold a key to one of the great mysteries surrounding Three Pines. I'm a huge fan of this series, though I thought the last two installments lacked that indefinable "magic" that drew me into this charming series in the first place. While this one doesn't rate as one of my personal favorites, it is a good story and I enjoyed it. What this book does best (I think) is find a way to incorporate the village of Three Pines into the story without having it be the central location of the mystery. If murders kept occurring in the remote tiny village then Three Pines would be vying with Cabot Cove for the title of "Murder Capital of North America"! Instead we have Armand Gamache using Three Pines as his home

base, so we get to spend time with the characters that are the backbone of the series without having them be victims or suspects. While I can't say that I found this story exactly suspenseful, it moved along at a nice pace and the plotline involving the map was interesting.

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