AUTHOR BACKSTORIES

Louise Penny

Reading list

Every book in order of first publication. Each series is kept together, in reading order, starting where its first book appeared. Tick the box as you finish each one.

24 books · 1 series · List updated November 14, 2026

Chief Inspector Armand Gamache

Series · 22 books · 2005–2026

Penny says each book stands alone but recommends reading them in order; her official list puts the novella The Hangman between Bury Your Dead and A Trick of the Light.

- ☐ 2005 — *Still Life*
  Book 1 · Novel
  Her first novel.
- ☐ 2007 — *A Fatal Grace*
  Book 2 · Novel
  Published in the UK as Dead Cold.
- ☐ 2008 — *The Cruelest Month*
  Book 3 · Novel
- ☐ 2009 — *A Rule Against Murder*
  Book 4 · Novel
  Published in the UK as The Murder Stone.
- ☐ 2009 — *The Brutal Telling*
  Book 5 · Novel
- ☐ 2010 — *Bury Your Dead*
  Book 6 · Novel
  Won the Agatha, Anthony, Macavity, Arthur Ellis and Nero awards, according to Wikipedia.
- ☐ 2010 — *The Hangman*
  Book 6.5 · Novella
  A short Gamache story written for adult literacy readers.
- ☐ 2011 — *A Trick of the Light*
  Book 7 · Novel
- ☐ 2012 — *The Beautiful Mystery*
  Book 8 · Novel
- ☐ 2013 — *How the Light Gets In*
  Book 9 · Novel
- ☐ 2014 — *The Long Way Home*
  Book 10 · Novel
- ☐ 2015 — *The Nature of the Beast*
  Book 11 · Novel

- [ ] 2016 *A Great Reckoning*
  Book 12 · Novel
- [ ] 2017 *Glass Houses*
  Book 13 · Novel
- [ ] 2018 *Kingdom of the Blind*
  Book 14 · Novel
- [ ] 2019 *A Better Man*
  Book 15 · Novel
- [ ] 2020 *All the Devils Are Here*
  Book 16 · Novel
  Won the Agatha Award for Best Contemporary Novel.
- [ ] 2021 *The Madness of Crowds*
  Book 17 · Novel
- [ ] 2022 *A World of Curiosities*
  Book 18 · Novel
- [ ] 2024 *The Grey Wolf*
  Book 19 · Novel
- [ ] 2025 *The Black Wolf*
  Book 20 · Novel
- [ ] 2026 *Miss Wolcott's Ghost*
  Book 21 · Novel

- [ ] 2021 *State of Terror*
  Novel · with Hillary Rodham Clinton
  A political thriller.
- [ ] 2026 *The Last Mandarin*
  Novel · with Mellissa Fung
  A political thriller about a mother and daughter caught up in a crisis between the US and China.