



**NANCY:** A well-written mystery that transports you into the life of a small Canadian town in Quebec. Louise Penny spins a good tale with unusual, layered characters who keep you guessing as the novel unfolds. I particularly appreciated her mastery of the craft, the language of the book, the descriptions and the intriguing story.



**PRISCILLA:** I'd like to go visit this little town of Three Pines! Jane? Can you spring for a MAMs road trip? I liked the parties in this book. Could we go have a party with all these characters? Wouldn't that be fun? I'm going to read the next book in the series.



**ABIGAIL:** Priscilla, that's not a real place, but I had the same idea! I looked it up. There are actually a lot of little towns and places in Quebec which inspired her writing. Maybe we could visit them? I'm going to check with Seamus. Maybe he could organize a tour for us. We did the Butterfly House in Ontario, Canada. I'd like to go farther, too.



**MOLLY:** I thought the author did an artful job of spinning the tale and illustrating the concept that appearances are not always what they seem. Who was the bad person here... the mother or the son? Well, I don't want to ruin the story line if you haven't read it yet, but it's a reminder that we have to look beyond appearances sometimes. That's good and deep.



**KATHARINE:** Loved the language and depiction of the Canadian society, the blend of English and French language and how that played out. I've never been to Quebec, I like the idea of a road trip, too.



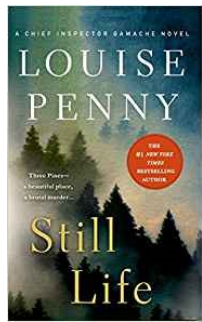
**JANE:** Strong women in this book! I loved Jane. Maybe because I like her name. But she was quite the eccentric lady with those paintings all over her house and then finally coming out and entering one in the art show. I would like to sit down and talk to this lady. Glad they found her killer, but sorry I can't meet her!



**SALLIE:** I liked the way the author depicted the teenagers in this book. Seemingly just typical, difficult teenagers, but were they also capable of murder? The relationships seemed authentic. Such a struggle for parents going through this phase of life, and also for the teens. Can you imagine how it would feel if you thought your teenager killed someone? I thought she did a great job with this part of the book.



# Discussion Guide



## About the Book

Book Title: Still Life with Louise Penny

Author: Louise Penny

Published: 2005, St. Martin's Paperbacks

Author Website: <https://www.louisepenny.com/>

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## Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. There were interesting dynamics among the various detectives. What did you think of these relationships? Did the one detective deserve to be disciplined? Was the new recruit really a problem? Did she learn anything through this experience?
3. How did art figure in this story? What was the role of art in this small town? What do you think the author's view of art would be? What is your take on that?
4. What did you enjoy about this book? Does the author do humor well? Why or why not?
5. How would you rate this book as mystery? Did the mystery part of the book unfold like you think a good mystery should? Why or why not?
7. What do you think were the author's goals in writing this book?
8. What did you learn about Quebec in this book? Would you like to join the MAMs on a road trip to small towns in Quebec? Why or why not?
9. This was the first book in this series. Have you read other books by this author? If so, how would you compare this book to other?
9. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
10. In what ways, if any, will this change your life or perspective?

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Canadian places which inspired the creation of Three Pines: <https://www.easterntownships.org/tourist-routes/12/three-pines-inspirations-map-louise-penny>

YouTube: "Louise Penny on her unexpected road to success" (9:10)

"The world of mystery author Louise Penny" (6:34)