

## *Bury Your Dead* Reader's Guide

There are four mysteries going on at the same time in this novel:

1. Why did Gamache's agents die?
2. Who killed the eccentric historian, Augustin Renaud?
3. Where are the remains of Samuel de Champlain, founder of Quebec?
4. When Gamache put Olivier in prison for the murder of Jakob, the hermit in Three Pines, did he put the wrong man in jail?

### **Characters in order of appearance, vocabulary of interest:**

**Chapter One** (pp. 1-12)

Armand Gamache: Chief Inspector of *Sûreté du Québec*, homicide unit

Jean-Guy Beauvoir: Inspector second in command under Armand Gamache who was present at the incident where Gamache's agents died and at the arrest of Olivier, married to Enid

Emile Comeau: former chief and mentor to Armand Gamache

Reine-Marie: Armand Gamache's wife

Henri: Armand Gamache's German shepherd

Captain Cook: (1728-1779) British explorer, navigator, cartographer (person who makes maps), saw action in two sea battles during the Seven Years' War

Louis-Antoine de Bougainville: (1729-1811) French admiral, cartographer and navigator, aide-de-camp of General Montcalm, took part in the Seven Years War, which was also known as the French and Indian War (1756-1763)

"Adown Titanic glooms of chasmed fears": line from the poem, "The Hound of Heaven" by Francis Thompson (1859-1907); Victorian poem that was once learned by every Catholic schoolchild

Porter Wilson: Chairman of the Literary and Historical Society, head of its Board of Directors, dynamic but not always kind

Elizabeth McWhirter: elderly board member of the Literary and Historical Society, pale, tall and slim, from a once well-known and well-to-do family

Stuart Blake: retired lawyer, oldest board member of the Lit and His Society, spends a lot of time in the library

Tom Hancock: resident of Quebec City for just the past three years, he is the young minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, participant in the ice-canoe race

Ken Haslam: board member of the Lit and His Society, works at Tour Royale, in his mid-sixties who never speaks above a whisper, another participant in the ice-canoe race

General James Wolfe: British leader who won a key battle in the French and Indian War against French Commander Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham at the battle of Quebec (1759); Wolfe perished from battle wounds, as did Montcalm

Winnie Manning: small and energetic head librarian and board member of Literary and Historical Society who speaks fractured French

Augustin Renaud: eccentric amateur historian and archeologist, disliked by almost everyone, who was obsessed with finding the remains of Samuel de Champlain

Samuel de Chaplain: founded New France and Quebec City on July 3, 1608, used as a powerful symbol of independence for Quebec by the separatists (those who wanted to split from the rest of Canada) **Chapter Two** (pp. 13-25).

Isabelle Lacoste: agent who works with Gamache, was present at the incident where Gamache's agents died

Annie Gamache: adult daughter of Armand and Reine-Marie Gamache

Ruth Zardo: elderly, irascible, alcoholic poet

Gabri: resident of Three Pines, partners with Olivier; Olivier ran the bistro and Gabri managed the bed and breakfast; now that Olivier is in jail, Gabri runs the bistro as well

Olivier Brulé: Gabri's partner who is currently in jail for the murder of the Hermit (a Czech immigrant named Jakob).

Francophone: person who speaks French

Amber Room: built from 1701 - 1709, commissioned by King Friedrich of Prussia for his wife, Sophie Charlotte, for Charlottenburg Palace; panels of the room were made

of amber backed with gold leaf and mirrors, sometimes dubbed the “Eighth Wonder of the World,” due to its singular beauty

Paul Morin: agent trainee working with Jean-Guy Beauvoir and Gamache, planning to marry Suzanne, he is key in the incident where Gamache’s agents die

The Hermit: Czech immigrant named Jakob, the murder victim in Three Pines, who had priceless antiques stashed in his cabin; Olivier is in jail for the killing

### **Chapter Three** (pp.27-38)

Langlois: Inspector with the Quebec City police

### **Chapter Four** (pp. 39-51)

Peter and Clara Morrow: friends of Gabri in Three Pines; both are artists

Myrna: also friends with Gabri, runs the bookstore next to the bistro

United Empire Loyalists: those who, during the American Revolutionary War remained loyal to the king of England and resettled in Canada after the defeat of the British army; “Better to live under one tyrant a thousand miles away than a thousand tyrants one mile away.”

Sauve qui peut: *every man for himself.*

Enid: married to Jean-Guy Beauvoir

Separatists: people who sought (or seek) the secession of Quebec from the rest of Canada

### **Chapter Five** (pp.53-69) honest

broker: a neutral mediator

Stuart Blake: retired lawyer, oldest board member of the Lit and His Society, spends a lot of time in the library redoubt: an enclosed, defensive structure, fortification

coelacanth: fish which has survived since the age of dinosaurs, it has body parts found in no other living creature

**Chapter Six** (pp.71-81)

Carole Gilbert: helps her son, Mark and daughter-in-law, Dominique, run the inn and spa where Olivier moved the Hermit's body in Three Pines

Vincent Gilbert: physician, “asshole” or “saint,” depending on whom you talk to, ex-husband of Carole, now living in the cabin formerly occupied by the Hermit

Roar Parra: woodsman who works at the spa, married to Hanna, they have a son named Havoc (who worked for Olivier); all had been the chief suspects in the murder of the Hermit

**Chapter Seven** (pp. 83-92) **Chapter Eight** (pp.93-103)

Serge Croix: Chief Archeologist of Quebec

**Chapter Nine** (pp. 105-123)

René Dallaire and Jean Hamel: elderly members of the Champlain Society who looked like Laurel and Hardy (slapstick comedy duo comprised of a thin Englishman and a fat American popular mid-1920s to late 1940s)

Père Sébastien: priest at Notre Dame Basilica, scholar on the early settlement of Quebec and the role of the church

Caribou: drink comprised of 75% red wine, 25% hard liquor (whiskey, rum or brandy), sweetened with maple syrup, drunk hot or cold – favorite of Carnaval-goers

Frédéric Grenier: owner of Le Temps Perdu (antique store), where Olivier sold a painting obtained from the Hermit **Chapter Ten** (pp.125-139)

maladroit: clumsy, bungling, ineffective

monomaniacal: obsessed with a single idea or subject

Récollets: a French reform branch of the Franciscan friars, active in Canada early on, they sailed with Champlain

**Chapter Eleven** (pp. 141-149) dépanneur: in French-speaking Canada, a convenience store Huguenots: members of the Protestant Reform Church of France during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries; because of religious wars and persecution, 200,000 Huguenots fled France by the end of the 1600s.

## **Chapter Twelve** (pp. 151-168)

patron: boss

Clara Morrow: Peter and Clara Morrow: friends of Gabri in Three Pines; both are artists

Old Munding and The Wife: a *young* couple; he is a carpenter who also restores antiques; she has a name (Michelle) but no one remembers it; they have a child, Charlie, with Down syndrome

Vincent Gilbert: physician, “asshole” or “saint,” depending on whom you talk to, ex-husband of Carole, now living in the cabin formerly occupied by the Hermit

Roar and Hanna Parra: (see Chapter Six)

Mark and Dominique Gilbert: owners of the inn and spa in Three Pines

Ruth Zardo: elderly, irascible, alcoholic poet

Cross the Rubicon: to pass a point of no return, refers to Julius Caesar’s crossing of the river in 49 BC, considered insurrection and breaking the law which was a capital offense

Myrna: friends with Gabri, runs the bookstore next to the bistro

Rosa: Ruth’s duck, who has flown south

quixotic: idealistic, unrealistic, impractical, derived from the character of Don Quixote  
coup: here, a clever action or accomplishment bonne nuit: good-night

## **Chapter 13** (p169-183)

Chief Superintendent Francoeur: Gamache’s boss with whom he has a difficult relationship internecine: of or relating to a struggle which is destructive to both sides; a conflict that tears an organization apart

Récollets: a French reform branch of the Franciscan friars, active in Canada early on, they sailed with Champlain

Separatists: people who sought (or seek) the secession of Quebec from the rest of Canada

Henri IV: (1553-1620) king of France from 1589-1610, a Protestant who converted to Catholicism when he became king to satisfy 90% of his subjects, was instrumental in ending the religious wars and promoting tolerance for Protestants

October Crisis: In October, 1970, a Quebec minister and a British diplomat were abducted. It was during a period of change where some people were pushing for sovereignty for Quebec. Pierre Trudeau, prime minister of Canada, curtailed civil rights and shortly thereafter Pierre Laporte, a provincial minister, was assassinated.

Sean Patrick: his name was in Augustin Renaud's diary; has a photograph which ends up being important

#### **Chapter Fourteen** (p.185-198)

Stuart Blake: retired lawyer, oldest board member of the Lit and His Society, spends a lot of time in the library

Louis-Antoine de Bougainville: (1729-1811) French admiral, cartographer and navigator, aide-de-camp of General Montcalm, took part in the Seven Years War, which was also known as the French and Indian War (1756-1763)

Captain Cook: (1728-1779) British explorer, navigator, cartographer (person who makes maps), saw action in two sea battles during the Seven Years' War

Madame Claude Marchand: housekeeper for Charles Chiniquy in Montreal; she was given his books when he died, and she donated them to the library in Quebec in 1899

Charles Paschal Télesphore Chiniquy: priest in 1860s or 1870s who led temperance campaigns, alienated the Catholic Church, became a fervent Protestant, whose books were donated to the library; Renaud was interested in these books

**Chapter Fifteen** (p.199-210) sanatorium: residential medical facility for people with long-term illnesses

Old Mundin and The Wife: a *young* couple; he is a carpenter who also restores antiques; she has a name (Michelle) but no one remembers it; they have a child, Charlie, with Down syndrome

Myrna: also, friends with Gabri, runs the bookstore next to the bistro

#### **Chapter Sixteen** (p.211-224)

Yvette Nichol: agent who was relegated to monitoring communications because she was difficult and needed to learn how to listen

Alain Doucet: used-bookstore owner

Charles Paschal Télesphore Chiniquy: priest in 1860s or 1870s who led temperance campaigns, alienated the Catholic Church, became a fervent Protestant, whose books were donated to the library; Renaud was interested in these books

Bonhomme: snowman who is mascot of Quebec's Winter Carnaval

Caribou: drink comprised of 75% red wine, 25% hard liquor (whiskey, rum or brandy), sweetened with maple syrup, drunk hot or cold – favorite of Carnaval-goers

Stuart Blake: retired lawyer, oldest board member of the Lit and His Society, spends a lot of time in the library

René Dallaire and Jean Hamel: elderly members of the Champlain Society who looked like Laurel and Hardy

James Douglas: Nineteenth-century physician, grave-robber, ran first asylum for the mentally ill in Canada, friends with Chiniquy **Chapter Seventeen** (p.225-235)

bedlam: a noisy, confused place or situation; a lunatic asylum

Ramses: Founding pharaoh of the 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty (reigned 1292-1290 BCE) whose mummy was brought to North America by Dr. James Douglas

Billy Graham: (b. 1918) American Christian Evangelist, spiritual advisor to several U.S. presidents, invited Martin Luther King Jr. to speak with him at Madison Square Garden

Madame Claude Marchand: housekeeper for Charles Chiniquy in Montreal; she was given his books when he died, and she donated them to the library in Quebec in 1899

Patrick and O'Mara: two smiling Irish laborers in a photograph belonging to Sean Patrick from 1869

General Wolfe: British officer known for his victory over the French General Montcalm in 1759; Wolfe was injured and died at the height of the battle

**Chapter Eighteen** (p.237-246)

Peter and Clara Morrow: friends of Gabri in Three Pines; both are artists

Myrna: also, friends with Gabri, runs the bookstore next to the bistro

Dominique Gilbert: wife of Mark Gilbert; they own and run the spa and inn where

Olivier moved the Hermit's body

Hanna: married to Roar Parra, they have a son named Havoc (who worked for Olivier); all had been the chief suspects in the murder of the Hermit

Mossad: Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations, appointed by the state of Israel to collect information, analyze intelligence and perform covert actions beyond its borders

CBC: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

The Wife: married to Old Munding (Patrick), they have a child, Charlie, with Down syndrome; Dr. Gilbert (Mark's father) works with Charlie and helping Old

Sean Patrick: Sean Patrick's great-grandfather, also named Sean Patrick, is in a photo with Francis O'Mara taken in 1869 –both of them are smiling; Gamache wants to know why

### **Chapter Nineteen** (p.247-262)

Serge Croix: Chief Archeologist of Quebec

La Grande: One of the largest hydroelectric facilities in the world, located in northern Quebec; its construction greatly disrupted the Cree's way of life (the Cree are the largest group of First Nations {Amerindians} in Canada)

Maudits: darned, blasted, damned

Captain Cook: explorer, navigator, cartographer

### **Chapter Twenty** (p.263-273) patrimoine:

heritage

pain de ménage: homemade bread

### **Chapter Twenty-one** (p.275-289)

Elizabeth McWhirter: elderly board member of the Literary and Historical Society, pale, tall and slim, from a once well-known and well-to-do family

Edwardian: King Edward VI's time period (United Kingdom), 1901-1910; (Queen Victoria died in 1901)



Yvette Nichol: agent who was relegated to monitoring communications because she was difficult and needed to learn how to listen

Carole Gilbert: helps her son, Mark and daughter-in-law, Dominique, run the inn and spa where Olivier moved the Hermit's body in Three Pines

Woloshyn: Carole Gilbert's family of origin

Klingons: originally villains in the first Star Trek series, later they later were portrayed as heroic warriors; they had their own language

Suzanne: Agent Morin's fiancée

**Chapter Twenty-two** (p.291-310)

Tom Hancock: resident of Quebec City for just the past three years, he is the young minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, participant in the ice-canoe race

Ken Haslam: board member of the Lit and His Society, works at Tour Royale, in his mid-sixties who never speaks above a whisper, another participant in the ice-canoe race

René Dallaire and Jean Hamel: elderly members of the Champlain Society who looked like Laurel and Hardy (slapstick comedy duo comprised of a thin Englishman and a fat American popular mid-1920s to late 1940s)

Basse-Ville: Lower Town, Quebec City

James Douglas: Nineteenth-century physician, grave-robber, ran first asylum for the mentally ill in Canada, friends with Chiniquy

Daniel and Annie: Armand and Reine-Marie Gamache's adult

children pneumothorax: a collapsed lung **Chapter Twenty-three**

(p.311-328) merde: shit

hallowed ground: set apart as holy, consecrated

Huguenots: members of the Protestant Reform Church of France during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries; because of religious wars and persecution, 200,000 Huguenots fled France by the end of the 1600s.

humanist: During Champlain's era, humanism involved cultural and educational

reform intended to create a citizenry (frequently including women) capable of speaking and writing with eloquence and clarity and able to influence the life of their communities to virtuous and prudent action through studies of the humanities: grammar, rhetoric, history, poetry and moral philosophy

Confederation: July 1, 1867, when Canada became a Dominion of the British Commonwealth; it was not an independent country – it remained a colony of Britain for many more years

Le Temps Perdu: antique store whose name means “lost time”


**Chapter Twenty-four** (p.329-352)

Queen Charlotte: wife of King George III of the United Kingdom (1744-1818)

Charlotte’s Web: children’s book about Wilbur the pig and Charlotte, a barn spider, who hatches a plot to save Wilbur from being slaughtered

Peter and Clara Morrow: friends of Gabri in Three Pines; both are artists

Hôtel-Dieu: teaching hospital located in Quebec,

mon coeur: term of endearment, “my heart” fleur-de-lys:  - stylized lily

Magog: city in southeastern Quebec

**Chapter Twenty-Five** (p.353-366) hubris: extreme pride or arrogance, overestimation of one’s own competence

Gog and Magog: in Revelations, reference to the dark side

**Chapter Twenty-Six** (p.367-371)

Solomon Gursky Was Here: a novel by Canadian author, Mordecai Richler, a ribald (lewd) reworking of Canadian history