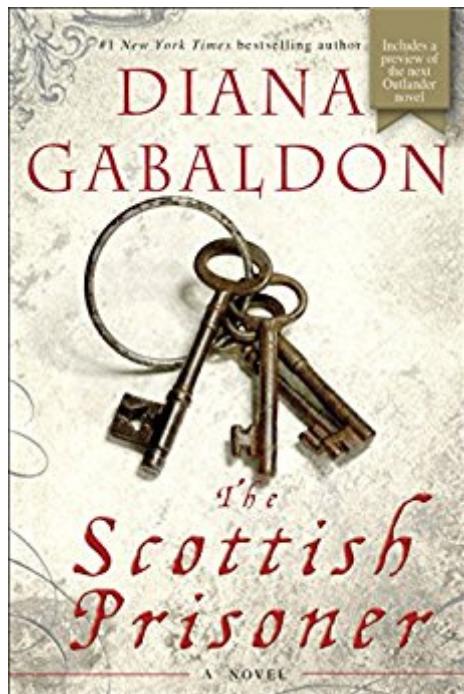


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The Scottish Prisoner: A Novel (Lord John Grey Book 3)



Synopsis

Includes a preview of the new novel in the Outlander series. London, 1760. For Jamie Fraser, paroled prisoner-of-war in the remote Lake District, life could be worse: He's not cutting sugar cane in the West Indies, and he's close enough to the son he cannot claim as his own. But Jamie Fraser's quiet existence is coming apart at the seams, interrupted first by dreams of his lost wife, then by the appearance of Tobias Quinn, an erstwhile comrade from the Rising. Like many of the Jacobites who aren't dead or in prison, Quinn still lives and breathes for the Cause. His latest plan involves an ancient relic that will rally the Irish. Jamie is having none of it; he's sworn off politics, fighting, and war. Until Lord John Grey shows up with a summons that will take him away from everything he loves again. Lord John Grey, aristocrat, soldier, and occasional spy, finds himself in possession of a packet of explosive documents that exposes a damning case of corruption against a British officer. But they also hint at a more insidious danger. Time is of the essence as the investigation leads to Ireland, with a baffling message left in the tongue favored by Scottish Highlanders. Lord John, who oversaw Jacobite prisoners when he was governor of Ardsmeir prison, thinks Jamie may be able to translate but will he agree to do it? Soon Lord John and Jamie are unwilling companions on the road to Ireland, a country whose dark castles hold dreadful secrets, and whose bogs hide the bones of the dead. A captivating return to the world Diana Gabaldon created in her Outlander and Lord John series, *The Scottish Prisoner* is another masterpiece of epic history, wicked deceit, and scores that can only be settled in blood. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

File Size: 4623 KB

Print Length: 561 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Press (November 29, 2011)

Publication Date: November 29, 2011

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B005723K2Q

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #5,179 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #19 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Romance > Time Travel #29 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Fantasy #37 in Books > Romance > Time Travel

Customer Reviews

Diana Gabaldon's THE SCOTTISH PRISONER is at least as much Jamie Fraser's story as Lord John Grey's. It takes place in 1760, during the time when Jamie was at Helwater, and it fills in many of the details of a time in Jamie's life that readers of the OUTLANDER series know very little about. THE SCOTTISH PRISONER is very much a character-focused, character-driven book, but there's plenty of action, and the story seems very well-paced. The structure of the book, with the alternating points of view between Jamie and Lord John, reminds me in some ways of Diana Gabaldon's novel Voyager (Outlander) (and I think it's effective for the same reason). Just as in the parts of VOYAGER that deal with the search for Jamie, and Claire's decision to go back, we as readers have some idea what's coming, we're rooting for it to happen, and when it finally does, it's enormously satisfying. As a reader, I want to see John and Jamie reconcile and resume their friendship, and although that's not the whole focus of the plot, it makes me hypersensitive to the smallest gesture that indicates progress is being made there. ("They're smiling at each other!" "He said, 'Call me John!' FINALLY!" etc.) There is a sense of the pieces of their relationship falling into their rightful place, particularly in the last part of the book, and that's very satisfying to me as a reader. John and Jamie's adventure in Ireland was highly entertaining, and kept my attention throughout. I see now why it was necessary to take both of them out of their normal environment before they could begin to re-establish any sort of relationship.

Absolutely fantastic. I absolutely love Jamie Fraser and absolutely love John Grey, so to get an entire novel with the two of them was an absolute treat. If you're not an already established Gabaldon fan, don't bother reading my review - but do immediately seek out her novels! I won't go into the details of the plot, I'm sure others will, but I will say that this book does show how Jamie and John's relationship evolved into a real friendship, given the differences in their current stations, past differences, and vastly different political positions. The plot also gives us a greater understanding of Jamie's life at Hellwater and his relationship with those there. We also get to see how John's involvement with the guardianship of Willie began. The bulk of the plot revolves around Irish Jacobites, which was interesting, especially as we watch Jamie struggle with his conscience and

loyalties regarding whether or not to support them knowing the historic outcome of their efforts. By far, this is the best Lord John Book to date! I have read other critiques of this book on , where readers complained that this wasn't a "Jamie and Claire" novel. Well, yes, in fact, this isn't a Jamie and Claire book, it takes place during Jamie's time at Hellwater (Voyager). However, anytime you spend with Jamie, and have the chance to hear his internal thoughts and ponderings, is time you spend with Jamie and Claire, since his thoughts are rarely far from her. I was touched how often he reached for her in his thoughts, and in his sleep - especially when he knew he would never see her or 'the child' again. Very touching. And John! He is such a marvelous character, one of the most valiant, honorable men in all of fictional history, but also complex and vulnerable.

Gabaldon, author of the immensely popular Outlander series, features the moody and passionate Jamie Fraser in this adventure set during his parole as a prisoner of war after the failed Jacobite Cause. It is 1760 in England, the once committed Jacobite bowing to the terms of his misfortune and at the mercy of fate, banishment from country, the forfeit of wife, the love of a son he cannot claim. Enter Fraser's appointed parole officer, Lord John Grey, who requires Fraser's assistance in obtaining proof of the traitorous actions of a British officer. A poem written in the language of the Scottish Highlanders in hand, Grey and Fraser embark on their secret mission to Ireland, seeking more information about what may be hidden in the text, as well as proof of the British officer's transgressions. Unexpectedly accompanied on the journey by the wily Tobias Quinn, Jaime's former comrade-in-arms in the Cause, Fraser is hard put to honor his word to Grey while keeping his prior association with Quinn a secret, the aging soldier inspired by yet another plan to further what Fraser believes a futile cause. Caught between past and present, Jamie is forced into daily contact with Grey, aristocrat, soldier and sometimes spy, facing treachery along the road, the incessant persuasion of the old Jacobite warhorse and the chronic aggravation of sorting through his feelings about Lord John, the two men are forced to work in tandem, brothers in arms, for survival and the success of their mission. (Through the tensions between Grey and Fraser, Gabaldon illustrates the complicated nature of their relationship, past resentments poisoning the present, threatening a new-found respect.

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