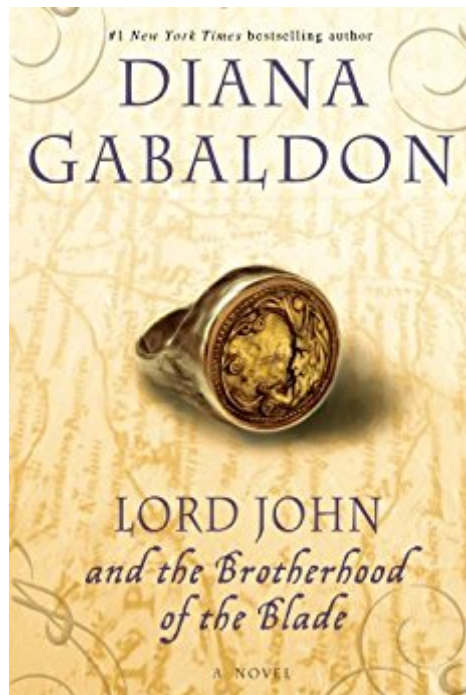


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Lord John And The Brotherhood Of The Blade: A Novel (Lord John Grey Book 2)



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER — Diana Gabaldon, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Outlander saga, brings back one of her most compelling characters: Lord John Grey. Here Gabaldon weaves together the strands of Lord John's secret and public lives—a shattering family mystery, a love affair with potentially disastrous consequences, and a war that stretches from the Old World to the New. — It's been seventeen years since Lord John's father, the Duke of Pardloe, was found dead, a pistol in his hand and accusations of his role as a Jacobite agent staining forever a family's honor. Now unlaidd ghosts from the past are stirring. Lord John's brother has mysteriously received a page of their late father's missing diary—and John is convinced that someone is taunting the Grey family with secrets from the grave. So he turns to the only man he can trust: the Scottish Jacobite James Fraser. But war, a forbidden affair, and Fraser's own secrets will complicate Lord John's quest—until James Fraser yields the missing piece of an astounding puzzle and Lord John must decide whether his family's honor is worth his life. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 4609 KB

Print Length: 511 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Press; 1st edition (August 28, 2007)

Publication Date: August 28, 2007

Language: English

ASIN: B000UZNRN2

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #10,666 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #47 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Romance > Time Travel #49 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Fantasy #71 in Books > Romance > Time Travel

Customer Reviews

Diana Gabaldon's latest book, Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade, gives us another look at one of the peripheral characters in her wonderful Outlander series. Lord John Grey, formerly in

charge of Ardsmuire Prison where Jamie Fraser was held, is now back in London and on a mission to restore his dead father's good name. We learn that Grey knew his father hadn't committed suicide all those years ago, but that the story was missing several pieces to determine exactly what did happen. Lord John follows the cold trail and discovers what did occur when he was a child of twelve, though much more is woven into the storyline than this short review can reveal. Suffice it to say that Lord John's life in the military and his family play major roles in helping him get to the bottom of a secret that's been taunting him for years. Yes, Lord John is a homosexual. Gabaldon made that adamantly clear in her *Outlander* series, and it is an essential part of his character, but it does not define him as a man. The homosexual love scenes are indeed graphic and I'm unsure as to why Gabaldon decided they were so necessary to advance her plot. Some insight is given into Grey's character through them, however, and one of the main themes of betrayal certainly is shown through the relationship between Grey and Percy. Even less clear to me, however, is why Grey felt the need to confront Jamie about his own homosexuality toward the end of the book; it's not a spoiler to say that the scene in question left me scratching my head as to what exactly was accomplished, other than to make sure we had another glimpse of our favorite Scot. In general, this is a well-written book that is not overly verbose as Gabaldon is sometimes accused of being, and the plot itself is tightly woven.

Diana Gabaldon has created another masterpiece with *Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade*. The character of Lord John Grey has a new book with a new mystery to solve and a new love that comes into his life. Originally one of the minor characters in Gabaldon's successful *Outlander* series, Grey was one of her favorite characters. She decided to give him his own set of adventures and those have taken off too. *Brotherhood of the Blade* is the sequel to *Lord John and the Private Matter*. Both books dovetail nicely into the *Outlander* books, but you really don't need to read them to know what's going on. Gabaldon manages to fit any exposition neatly between the comings and goings of the two novels without making it so blatant as to bore the reader. John and older brother Hal are being taunted with pages from their late father's journal--pages that seem to insinuate that their father was a traitor and that his death avoided what was to be a family scandal. John is forced to go see the one man who might have a clue to the issue--Jamie Fraser, a convicted Jacobite officer that John is only too familiar with. Near misses by would be assassins only strengthen John's resolve to solve this mystery--even though Hal and their mother want it to remain dead and buried with the late Duke of Pardloe. Add an unexpected romance, another death in the family, and the regiment's coming departure for the Prussian war and this book is rife with intrigue and

action. Gabaldon has created a wonderful sequel, one that far surpasses the writing of the first. The characters are intricate and multi-layered; John Grey more so in this book than in the previous. The action is full of surprises, tense and never slowing. The battle scenes carry the smell of smoke from the realism.

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