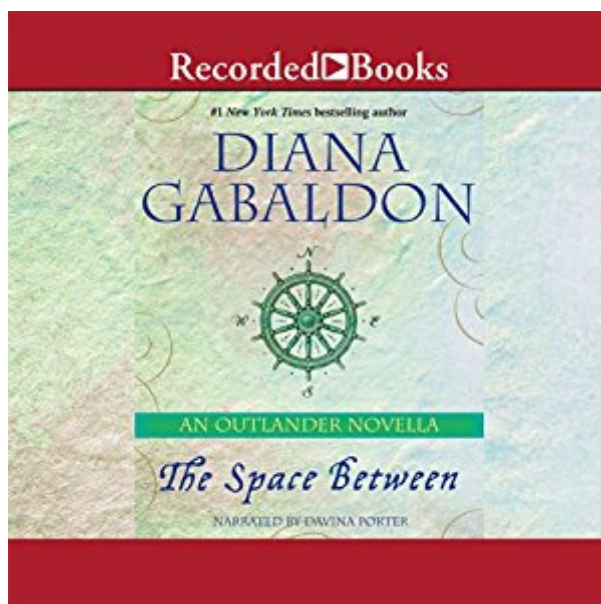


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The Space Between: An Outlander Novella



Synopsis

Number-one New York Times best-selling author Diana Gabaldon returns to her Outlander universe in *The Space Between*, an irresistible novella brimming with adventure, history, and suspense - and available for the first time as a standalone audiobook. Joan MacKimmie is on her way to Paris to take up her vocation as a nun. Yet her decision is less a matter of faith than fear, for Joan is plagued by mysterious voices that speak of the future, and by visions that mark those about to die. The sanctuary of the nunnery promises respite from these unwanted visitations...or so she prays. Her chaperone is Michael Murray, a young widower who, though he still mourns the death of his wife, finds himself powerfully drawn to his charge. But when the time-traveling Comte St. Germain learns of Joan's presence in Paris, and of her link to Claire Fraser - La Dame Blanche - Murray is drawn into a battle whose stakes are not merely the life but the very soul of the Scotswoman who, without even trying, has won his heart.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am 68 years old, soon to be 69 next week. I have read many, many book in my days but, I must say, that in all my years, I have never read novels as good as the OUTLANDER series. I just hope I don,t CROAK before the new novel comes out in June. A little paranormal, great story, great romance, and above all, great historical. For adults only I feel.

A fast-paced story set near the end of "Echo in the Bone," "The Space Between" introduces Michael

Murray (one of Jenny and Ian's sons) and Joan (Laoghaire's daughter), and re-introduces two favorites from "Dragonfly in Amber" Master Raymond and the Comte St. Germaine. But wait, how is that possible? you ask. You must read to find out! Michael and Joan are interesting and engaging characters in their own right (especially Joan!), not just because they are kin to Jaime. My favorite of the novellas so far, and I hope that the seeds planted here bear fruit in the next "Written in my Won Heart's Blood."

Warning - if you haven't read all seven of the books in the Outlander series, this novella will make absolutely no sense to you; there's too much "back story" that is assumed the reader knows. That said, if you HAVE read those books, this novella is a delight. It picks up the story of Joan MacKimmie (Jamie's step-daughter), who is journeying to Paris to become a nun. She's accompanied by Jamie's nephew, Michael Murray, who came home to Scotland for his father's death/funeral. Michael works in the family wine business in Paris and offers to escort Joan on her journey. Enter the Comte, whom we all thought died in DIA, and Master Raymond and some time travel, mystical stuff. The Comte mistakenly believes Joan is Claire's daughter and kidnaps her for his experiments. Michael rescues her (of course). There's some reference to Claire and the Comte "belonging" to Raymond and they disappear together - to who knows where and why - at the end. As Diana Gabaldon herself often says, "Wait and see."

Reviewed at Another Look Book Reviews I haven't a clue what to rate The Space Between. Just because it was written by my favourite author doesn't mean the book automatically receives a 5 star from me. To be honest, after reading The Space Between, I did a lot of head scratching and saying, "huh?" I certainly finished the story with more questions than I had going into it. I think I need to read this novella a second time. When Diana Gabaldon makes a point to write something, it usually means that I need to remember something for the future. The Space Between is not a romance nor is it historical fiction. It is a...what the heck was it? A filler? A puzzler? A definite head scratcher. I did really like that Joan MacKimmie seems to be a seer of some sort. I think there is a lot of story that can be created with that bit of added knowledge. Michael only lost his wife a month previous so the poor man is still very much in mourning. My heart ached for him. I loved that Diana provided flashback memories of Michael with his wife as we got to meet her and miss her along with him. Master Raymond reappears and so does the Comte St. Germain. You may remember them from the long ago Paris days with Jamie and Claire. Lots and lots of questions about The Space Between is generated because of these two. I am not going to spoil anything but I did say out loud,

"What the heck?" more than a few times. I can't say that I LOVED it, nor did I not like it. So for me, a 3 star is a good rating since I liked it.

I read this after reading *Echo In the Bone*, and if you have read that you will probably know what I mean when I say that this helped to ease a little of the frustration I felt after the ending of *Echo*. It is a short easy read and I liked the story, plus after the main story there is a snippet at the end that picks up where one of the cliffhangers of *Echo* left off. I recommend reading this.

Although the author wrote the novellas and short stories appended to *Outlander* as "stand alone" pieces, it is much more fun to read them as part of the total *Outlander* experience. In this story, we meet and follow two side-line characters on an adventure. Jamie Fraser's nephew Michael and step-daughter Joan travel to France, she on her way to join a religious order and he returning to his home, now bereft of his beloved wife, and his part in his great-uncle Jared's wine business. How much adventure could a grieving husband and a Catholic novice have? Well, the author provides delightful surprises as Michael fights through the fog of grief to save Joan from dire straits and wee Joanie herself confronts baddies - and two goodies - whom we will recall from past episodes in the *Outlander* saga. But, no spoilers here. I'd say read it - quite enjoyable and primes the anticipation for ... Book 9 of the series (release date unknown).

Really enjoyed this one. I like the idea of Michael and Joan getting together as a couple. Wonderful read! Very nice to have characters from the other *Outlander* books expanded upon. If you have read the other books in the series you will like this story.

There is no other author who delivers such powerful visualization, bar none! Mz. Gabaldon has held my attention and interest for over 20 years. I can't say that about any other series of books, much less any single book, that even comes close. Fast paced, page turning at full speed. I guarantee you won't get much done whenever you pick up a *Highlander* book! This was a very beautiful "fill in" book to the series. Going back to the earlier years of our saga, giving us insights to details hinted at, but not fully developed in prior novels. Painting with a very fine brush, we're given more jewels of adventure and character, to those we already love beyond all others. Jamie is a complex, street smart, hunk of a man. Honor and common sense at the core of all he approaches. Fiercely loyal to those he loves and cares for, he is the very definition of THE man every woman dreams of finding. **DON'T MISS THIS STORY!**

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