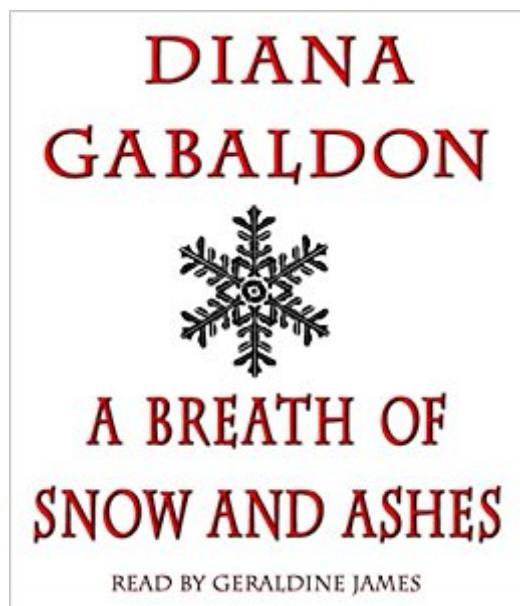


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A Breath Of Snow And Ashes (Outlander)



Synopsis

Eagerly anticipated by her legions of fans, this sixth novel in Diana Gabaldon's best-selling Outlander saga is a masterpiece of historical fiction from one of the most popular authors of our time. Since the initial publication of Outlander fifteen years ago, Diana Gabaldon's New York Times best-selling saga has won the hearts of readers the world over and sold more than twelve million books. Now, A Breath of Snow and Ashes continues the extraordinary story of 18th-century Scotsman Jamie Fraser and his 20th-century wife, Claire. The year is 1772, and on the eve of the American Revolution, the long fuse of rebellion has already been lit. Men lie dead in the streets of Boston, and in the backwoods of North Carolina, isolated cabins burn in the forest. With chaos brewing, the governor calls upon Jamie Fraser to unite the backcountry and safeguard the colony for King and Crown. But from his wife Jamie knows that three years hence the shot heard round the world will be fired, and the result will be independence with those loyal to the King either dead or in exile. And there is also the matter of a tiny clipping from *The Wilmington Gazette*, dated 1776, which reports Jamie's death, along with his kin. For once, he hopes, his time-traveling family may be wrong about the future. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After waiting nearly four years since *The Fiery Cross* (2001), readers will find every expectation fulfilled in the sixth book of the popular Outlander series. Gabaldon shines as she unfolds the continuing story of the Frasers, heartbreakingly heroic highlander Jamie and his time-traveling wife

Clare. Set during the three years leading up to the American Revolution, this compulsively readable mix of authentically set historical fiction and completely satisfying romance maps both violent loss and strong family ties. On the eve of war much is changing on Fraser's Ridge and Jamie and Claire encounter much harm. This vivid and haunting novel, therefore, brings an aching sadness, but it is balanced with sheer joy, revelation, and solace. The large scope of the novel allows Gabaldon to do what she does best, paint in exquisite detail the lives of her characters. Gabaldon's ability to invoke the heroic and the harrowing writ large, while also creating moments where you dare not take a breath for fear of missing something tiny and fine, is her hallmark. For it is in describing the sound of rain on the roof, Jamie's injured hand, or the understanding between father and daughter that the world of the novel comes alive and offers readers an enthralling experience. Neal WyattCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“The sixth instalment of the adventures of Claire and Jamie Fraser, already number one on the bestseller list, is a whopping 980 pages of action-packed escapism. It also has surprisingly melancholy and insightful views on the experience of growing old and dealing with the losses that entails.” One of the things that sets Gabaldon apart from other romance writers is exhaustive research of the times in which her characters live, so evident in her attention to period detail. plot lines and stand-alone yarns are expertly woven together with the overall theme of impending doom and the question of predetermination. • The Toronto Star “Fans of Diana Gabaldon’s popular Outlander series have another rousing historical-science-fiction-romance novel to savour in *A Breath of Snow and Ashes*. For fans, this book is another slam-dunk hit. It’s a massive, long-lasting source of entertainment.” • The Gazette (Montreal) Praise for Diana Gabaldon: “Riveting. Gabaldon has a true storyteller’s voice.” • The Globe and Mail “Triumphant. . . . Her use of historical detail and truly adult love story confirm Gabaldon as a superior writer. . . . The pages practically turn themselves.” • Publishers Weekly “Diana Gabaldon is a born storyteller. . . . The pages practically turn themselves.” • Arizona Republic “Readers will find every expectation fulfilled.... The large scope of the novel allows Gabaldon to do what she does best, paint in exquisite detail the lives of her characters.” • Booklist From the Hardcover edition.

In *A Breath of Snow and Ashes*, some questions were answered, some characters revealed for their

true selves, and the main characters, who I have come to love, age and evolve. Such has been the journey through all the Outlander books. Even though books seven and eight are still ahead of me, I can feel the series beginning to wrap up. Jaime and Claire are growing older, but are still very much in love and still very vital. Roger, whose sensitivity I see as a wonderful counterpoint to Jaimie's often brutal pragmatism has become a character that I adore. Bree has also grown, but retains modern sensibilities that are too modern and often cause problems for most everyone around her. I have also come to appreciate Lord John Gray. His unrequited love for Jaimie has been turned into the raising of Jaimie's son, William who makes a brief appearance in this novel. I am so glad that Ms. Gabaldon has written a number of novels dedicated to John's story. They are next on my reading list. The novel sees the resolution of the Stephen Bonnet story line. In fact my only quibble is with this novel is Bonnet's story line. He dreams of the manner of his death and it comes about in very nearly that way, save Bree's timely intervention. It is a minor complaint, but I found that it was just a little too incredible. Off to read An Echo in the Bone...

This novel is exactly what fans expect from Diana Gabaldon's books. Well developed characters fill the pages with plenty of family drama, insightful and heartfelt moments, as well as developed settings based on intense historical research. While reading there is no skipping over scenes because the next exciting incident and plot twist can happen in a flash. This story reads authentic and tells of the challenges faced in the times while continuing our favorite couple's journey. Claire and Jamie Fraser's adventure of life in the wilderness (Fraser's Ridge) is filled with compassion and drenched in realism. Definitely an exciting book to read.

How incredible is the emotions summoned by the force of these books? The feelings that they stir blind-side me! Ms. "G" spins such a compelling, emotional story of clans, family, tribes, nations, customs, spirit, traditions and children. By now, the 18th Century has become Claires' time. In her mind, she's no longer from the future. She's transisted to the "now" of Jamies' time. Her former life has become unreal and remote -- the thing of dreams. This sixth installment of this fabulous epic "OUTLANDER" adventure connects the previous book (Fiery Cross) to the next installment (An Echo in the Bone) smoothly. The Revolutionary War has begun and Jamie finds his loyalties challenged. All the books hold so much adventure and wonderfully detailed historical information...It's now 1776...Brianna & Roger Mac have successfully gone back to the 20th century with their children. Yet they follow Jamie and Claire, staying abreast of their travels and activities. Jamie has always been a Warrior and a soldier most of his life with a mind of an educated

gentleman and a soul of a barbarian. Now he's approaching his early-50's... Wisdom and good sense has tempered his fighting passion. He continues to carve out a life for Claire...temporarily leaving Fraser's Ridge for Scotland. Claire is content to go where Jamie leads. Her happiness IS Jamie and nothing more. Yet she knows the Revolution is upon them. Facing another war is a frightening thought. This sixth book of the OUTLANDER saga could actually stand on its own....but WHY would you not want to read this fabulous epic from it's beginning?!? IMHO, it's best to start at the beginning with Outlander - - if for nothing else than to fully appreciate and understand the devoted, passionate relationship between Jamie and Claire....and to thoroughly KNOW them. Ms. Gabaldon ALWAYS discloses and informs the reader of facts, events and experiences of Jamie and Claire, then walks away from those events and experiences. And then somewhere in later episodes, she brings that moment backsomewhere in the series. And "A BREATH OF SNOW AND ASHES" follows this line of dropping information upon the reader, only to make it reappear later in the book. It's like little informative, mysterious puzzle pieces that she plops down in our laps...dusts her hands off and walks away, closing the chapter. She leaves the reader thinking, "WOW!"and then somewhere later in the same book, (or subsequent books), that information or event is brought back to our mind/attention. And the reader is soundly blown away! This is the third time I've read this Epic 7 book Outlander Saga through the many years but it's the first time I've taken time to give a review. Like all the other 5Ã¢Â€Âœ | rave reviews, I can never put this story down once I begin...errands are curtailed, housework goes to pot and laundry piles up. It holds me completely captive with crippling intensity with all of its emotional structure and profound dimension. The story is so captivating and consuming that I find that I begin to slow my reading down as I see the end looming in sight, hating to let Jamie and Claire go. It never fails...BECAUSE THESE CHARACTERS ARE REAL.. DANG IT! When I read this fantastic Saga, I'm transported to Scotland, or France, or the Colonies of America! I mean.....I'M THERE! I'm experiencing the deplorable living conditions...smelling the stink of the slops thrown out the windows. I'm walking the cobblestones and seeing the people...seeing all the immigrants in their different cultural garb. The descriptive detail and narration are so strong, exact and perfect that one cannot help be emotionally invested in little time. I am transported into another world and time...and I am reluctant to return. I am thoroughly ensconced into the story...it's close to impossible to put these books down to even run to the bathroom...for to put them down for any trivial purpose is to return to the 21st century and that I just hate to do. I begin to go through withdrawals as soon as I begin to close the book and set it down. Diana Gabaldon is...simply put... brilliant! The absolute best! Yes, the stories are long but each character is carefully considered and the scenic details imperative to the emotion of the

era...and the events that are chosen to be included are necessary to have the story told well. IMHO, the story isn't long enough. If you will allow the time, and give the effort to patiently absorb the detailed narration, you will be blessed and rewarded with the most emotional, captivating Saga ever to hold in your hands.

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