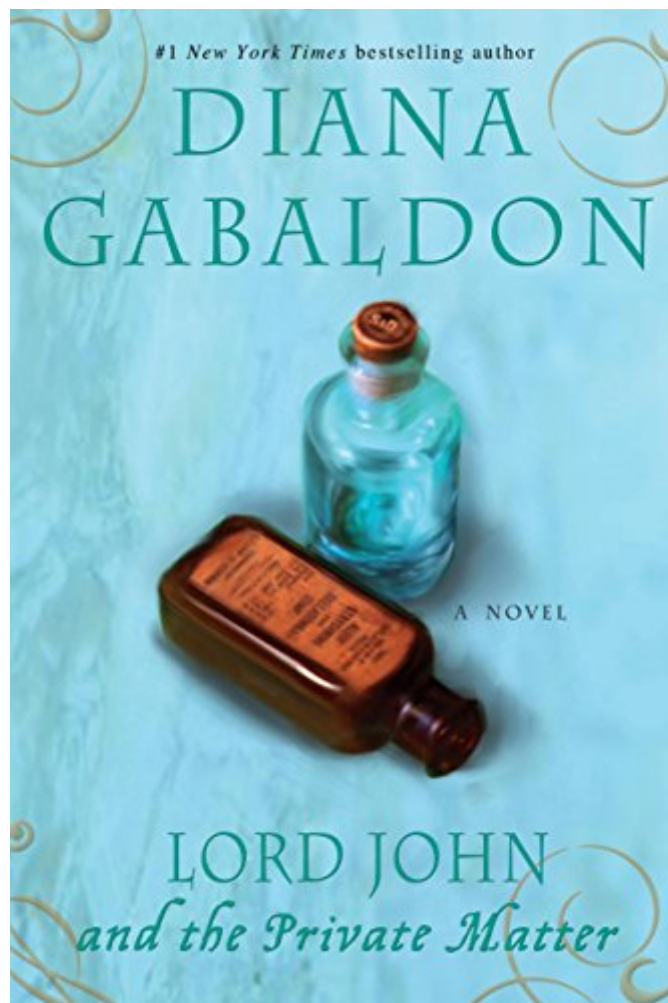




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# Lord John And The Private Matter: A Novel (Lord John Grey Book 1)



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER — Diana Gabaldon weaves a dazzling tale of history, intrigue, and suspense in this first novel featuring one of her most popular characters from the Outlander saga: Lord John Grey. The year is 1757. On a clear morning in mid-June, Lord John Grey emerges from London's Beefsteak Club, his mind in turmoil. A nobleman and a high-ranking officer in His Majesty's army, Grey has just witnessed something shocking. But his efforts to avoid a scandal that might destroy his family are interrupted by something still more urgent: The Crown appoints him to investigate the brutal murder of a comrade-in-arms who may have been a traitor. Obligated to pursue two inquiries at once, Major Grey finds himself ensnared in a web of treachery and betrayal that touches every stratum of English society and threatens all he holds dear. Praise for Lord John and the Private Matter "[A] thoroughly entertaining and wonderfully witty historical mystery set in the richly detailed, occasionally bawdy world of Georgian England." —Booklist "Packed with vivid description and detail. Gabaldon aptly transports readers to eighteenth-century London, with all its reeking humanity and glitteringly elegant excess." —BookPage

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

". ..and at the end of the room the musicians still played Handel, like the music of his life, beauty and serenity interrupted always by the thunder of distant fire."Outlander fans might skip the Lord John Grey series because, well, no Jamie Fraser. And while I admit I only gave the series a try because Jamie does share pov in The Scottish Prisoner (wonderful book, btw), I've continued the series because of LJG. The Private Matter is an intriguing and surprising Historical Mystery, told with the dry wit only LJG does best. I loved the mystery, which was two-fold. Not only is John charged with solving a soldier's murder, but is also trying to determine if his cousin's fiancée has the pox. Drama, indeed. John's search takes him all over London and London's society, even to the Lavender House, a refuge for men who enjoy the "company" of other men. We see John at his best, solving crime and other people's problems. I enjoyed the entire story, truly. The most touching moment, though, is when I fully realized how deeply John must stay closeted. That he must take care of how he looks at other men, the worry that he will be discovered and what that could mean. And, that the man he loves will always be out of his reach. I'm so looking forward to reading Brotherhood of the Blade, and am happy to have learned LJG will be getting a fourth book!

I finally got around to reading this sister series of Diana Gabaldon's. I've meant to for a while, but now that 7 Stones is out, Diana indicates that these should be read first so I needed to get on it! While not quite as wonderful as the Outlander series, it was still great to get more background on Lord John, and even better getting brief glimpses of Jamie (through flashbacks) through Lord John's eyes. Lord John has been a character that I have sort of grudgingly accepted, but this book has given me a greater respect for him. Perhaps if I had have read all the books in the order that Diana had written them I would have liked him more from the start. The story centered mainly around Lavender House, a sort of meeting house for men to liaise with other men in historical London. This is a topic I know very little about, so it was all extremely fascinating to read.

The book is well written, but I do feel it's lacking. I know this author's writing is absolutely exceptional, so the things missing in this series are obvious. One of the wonderful things about the Outlander books is that she shares the lives & emotions of each character. We know them. They are all part of the amazing story lines. That is why I fell in love with the character of John. The author doesn't allow us to get to know the characters in the John series. I felt no attachment to any

of them. I wouldn't have felt any attachment to John from reading this book as a stand alone. Outlander John was full of emotion. He was humorous & compassionate under his soldier facade. I felt that his character seemed cold & aloof. Not at all the John of Outlander. I only felt connected by his prior mention on the other books.

Lord John and Private Matter s another look at the character we've met in the Outlander series. The title is a play on words, but the plot takes us from the drawing rooms of upper class London in 1760 to the dark and treacherous alleys, the men's clubs, bordellos. Several plots intertwine all involving Lord John Grey. Light reading,.

It would have been a huge loss to me if I'd chosen not to read this book just because a portion of it lightly touches on sexual subjects other than the usual male & female goings on. I applaud this author's inclusion and delicate treatment of a usually (religious dictated) taboo subject in a mainstream book. You are NOT going to become a murderer because you read about murder. Nor do you become a princess by reading all about Princess Diana. But reading anything on those 2 subjects opens your eyes, mind and give you greater understanding on many levels about those subjects and how they might impact on your life, or someone you know or love. So why keep your mind closed and ignorant on a subject that effects a third or more of the world's population and does impact your life, whether you realize it or not. Besides it's a VERY entertaining read.

For the many readers who love the Outlander series, the Lord John series elaborates and fills in many extra details about Jamie's life and events in the years between Culloden and Claire's return, as well as fleshing out many characters and plot details that appear in later books in the Outlander series. I decided to read these to get my fix while waiting for the next Outlander book. In the process, I discovered that the Lord John books easily stand on their own as well-written stories. I have come to care about and appreciate Lord John's character, who is so well developed in these books, as well as other family members and characters who will reappear in the Outlander books. Finally, I have gained a deeper appreciation for how well Diana Gabaldon writes and how so very good she is at her craft.

Gabaldon is amazing. I miss Outlander and nearly had a nervous breakdown after finishing book 8, so went on to the Lord John series....read all but one. I am holding off on the last, because he is becoming quite real to me, as the Outlander characters did.... and I don't want to say goodbye quite

yet.

Diana Gabaldon is a supreme writer. Her characters come alive, her detailed descriptions of the places, clothing, food & drink transport you back to the 17th century. I've read all 4 of her Lord John Grey novellas & am looking forward to reading her recently released Seven Stones to Stand or Fall. This is a compilation of 7 short stories that continue the stories of Outlander characters Lord John Grey, his brother Hal, Ian Murray, Jamie Fraser, Comte St. Germaine, Master Raymond, & Roger MacKenzie's parents.

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