



An Echo in the Bone

Diana Gabaldon

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The Seventh Outlander novel from #1 National Bestselling author Diana Gabaldon.

Jamie Fraser, erstwhile Jacobite and reluctant rebel, knows three things about the American rebellion: the Americans will win, unlikely as that seems in 1778; being on the winning side is no guarantee of survival; and he'd rather die than face his illegitimate son — a young lieutenant in the British Army — across the barrel of a gun. Fraser's time-travelling wife, Claire, also knows a couple of things: that the Americans will win, but that the ultimate price of victory is a mystery. What she does believe is that the price won't include Jamie's life or happiness — not if she has anything to say.

Claire's grown daughter Brianna, and her husband, Roger, watch the unfolding of Brianna's parents' history — a past that may be sneaking up behind their own family.

An Echo in the Bone Details

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Author : Diana Gabaldon

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From Reader Review An Echo in the Bone for online ebook

Verity says

DG's still a PHENOMENAL writer, her talent has never been in question, but I do question her sanity after reading the last word of this hefty 814-page HC. These are just my random thoughts & somewhat-friendly reminders to myself as future reference, in case I need to refresh my poor memory. This is 1 helluva busy book, jammed w/ innumerable constantly-shifting plots & POVs but the resulting end wasn't a thrilling ride as the previous ones. I really hope to hell this was simply a failed experiment & that the next 1 will unfold more smoothly than this. I was left dazed & confused @ times in trying to follow the zig-zag tracks, or perhaps it was due to lack of sleep & long hours of OT hahahaa.... I wish I'd read this during my Dec staycation. I've read 21 books in-between AEITB so it wasn't a v. good sign 'cuz I used to devour DG's books as if there's no tomorrow. I'll prolly not gonna reread =^2

> ~*~/*\~*~ SPOILERS ~*~/*\~*~ SPOILERS ~*~/*\~*~ SPOILERS ~*~/*\~*~ <

WTF moments :

- The noticeable imbalance in pacing throughout the book. The stop-and-start, going-into-multiple-directions formula could only go so far.
- Claire boinked Lord John after Jamie's death & the subsequent MOC. < Scratches wig > For real ? Why not just have her commit suicide as she tried to but didn't ? Or have Claire take a mental vacay from reality for as long as she believed Jamie was 6-FT under ? Good grief. What's the purpose of this plot device aka her momentary insanity ? Just to add more dwamatic flavor into the BOILING cauldron ? Jamie's not even cold in his grave yet. Ick. How could she even think, let alone do Lord John ? Is this a potentially awkward luv triangle since he has feelings for Jamie too ? What a tangled web.
- What's up w/ Jamie's mild reaction when Lord John fessed up that he had carnal knowledge of Claire ? Oh wait, I forgot, this book only serves as a stepping stone for the next installment
- Was DG sprinting to meet the deadline ? Was she watching Quentin Tarantino's Kill Bill Vol 1 & 2 when she wrote this epic saga ? As if we're not poor enough w/ the econ in the dumpster as it is. If I'd forked over big bucks outta my own negative piggy bank, I'd have demanded a half-refund. Good thing I used a library card, not a CC.
- Buckleigh = Another TT victim. So the portals have become a revolving door now. Who's next ?
- The mystery of Roger's dad. As if we didn't have enough intrigue. Maybe he'll meet his da in another time, amidst his search for Jem ?
- Li'l Jem got kidnapped & took a train to "destination : unknown." Roger left Bree & Mandy behind, taking Buckleigh w/ him. Will they succeed ? Buck's supposed to die @ 38 y/o, his current age. Yikes.
- Do we really need another lesson in human disease, anatomy & physiology ? Haven't I seen Claire stitch up Jamie before ? Ok so this time she's severing a full digit & trying to leave him w/ a working hand. I don't think my poor fragile heart can take any more abuse than this. How many more lives does Jamie have left ? Have mercy.
- When Willie met Jamie. If that's all there is to it, I don't think it's worth waiting for. It's supposed to build up like a crescendo 'till the moment of truth hits him in the face. It got swallowed up by the impending troops. I expected a so much more electrifying reunion.
- Can Lord John & Willie's storylines be any more boring ? Wish their tedious episodes coulda been condensed into merely 1 – 2 chapters. Or @ least, keep them in separate sections instead of sneaking them in-between Jamie, Ian, Claire, Rog & Bree's perilous adventures. It's too crowded. If U wanna include 'em, @ least give us more substance to root for. My head's still spinning from the subplot overload. Wonder why

my short-span attention drifted to other books. I thought I could recharge my interest but it didn't work =^B - I didn't care much for Rog & Bree's modern life in the 1980's either, hence the 2 stars I dinged on. Just get over it. Their kids were way more riveting & if it weren't for Mandy's acute sense of loss, Rog & Bree wouldn't have known Jem was missing. No wonder they say kids have a 6th sense. For a moment there I felt like in a twilight zone.

- The letters that Bree & Roger read, actually made my eyes kinda glaze over. They're small & in italics, plus my eyesight is failing, the letters made me drowsy. I was torn between skipping them & not wanting to miss anything pertaining to Jaime & Claire's adventures.
- Lotsa v. dull sea voyage scenes. Here I am, a fan of swashbuckling pirate romance, I wanted them to get off the ship & land somewhere.
- The diminishing # of Jamie-ism. @ my rapidly-advancing age, I need more to sustain me thru' the next 4 yrs. He still said the most luvly, aaawww-worthy lines to Claire but they're too far & few between =^D

Fav (some gut-wrenching) moments :

- Claire, like a loose cannon, gave Jamie a delish dressing-down after seeing his injury-decorated self. Almost had a cardiac arrest when the scavenger duo were gonna kill him. @\$\$-kicking heroine that she is, Claire got the biggest b@ll\$ when it comes to protecting Jamie.
- Jamie's death-defying, gritty battle scenes. I prayed – and this is coming from an unbeliever – that Jamie would not get blown away to splinters like his comrades. In the scene where Claire found him later on, he bared his soul to her 'bout his motives & principles in joining the revolution. Fell in luv w/ him all over again, what an amazing guy.
- Ian's bloody slow death of consumption was heart-breaking. Lved that poignant scene where Jamie offered his severed finger to Ian. He'll always keep a part of Jamie w/ him to next life. Now that's what U'd call a true BFF.
- Young Ian got to see his da & family. He spent quality time w/ da & revealed that he's in luv. Ian can go peacefully, knowing that his son got another shot @ HEA.
- Jenny & Claire butted heads again, as expected. Their volatile relationship might keep things interesting in the next 1.
- Jamie & Claire took matters in their own hands, literally. His sweaty, outraged reaction to Claire's request to "luv thyself" was comical =P Why didn't we get more lovey-dovey scenes ? The freakin-hawt chemistry was still alive & kicking. Instead, we're treated to various symptoms of fatigue, exhaustion, vomiting, thirst, starvation etc. Granted, it's wartime & they gotta conserve their energy, but the romance dept woulda benefited w/ more J & C's inspiring luv scenes.
- Jamie & Laoghaire's long-overdue explosive reunion. @ least they got to settle it once & for all. Laoghaire found happiness in an unlikely man, who needed her more than Jamie ever did. Li'l Joanie was all grown-up now & made an overture to Jamie to pave her way to the convent. Claire had the upper hand when she made a bargain w/ Laoghaire, who needed her medical skills for Marsali's kid. 1 dilemma's solved.
- Young Ian had a secret son, fell head over heels in luv w/ a Quaker. It's kinda confusing reading Rachel & Denny Hunters' weird lingo.
- Denny & Dottie, Ian & Rachel = I liked their sweet 2ndary romance.
- Ian's devotion to his mutt, Rollo. I'm a sucka for heroes who adore dogs. Ian has become my 2nd fav character in the ginormous clan. He felt so anguished over the accidental killing of Arch Bug's wife. @ last he showed fine mettle, esp when Jamie's being blackmailed by a scumbag & also in the final confrontation to save Rachel. I wouldn't mind seeing more of their conflicts in the next installment. It'll be fascinating to see the adjustments on both ends.
- Jamie saw Simon, his 2nd cousin, from the opposing end. Didn't wanna kill his kinsman but ended up almost shooting his own son Willie in the head. Jamie met his other cousin, Hamish, it's a small world indeed. I wonder how many more cousins Jamie'll encounter.

- Liked Fergus & his mysterious lineage plot. I wouldn't have minded @ all if DG had included more of his scenes w/ Jamie than the dull Lord John & Willie's encounters.
- Tom Christie returned, much to Claire's discomfort 'cuz he still carried a flaming torch for her.
- DG's wonderful dialogues. Just can't get enuff of 'em.

If her editor hadn't fallen asleep, methinks the book coulda been more condensed into 500 pages. Get rid of the yawn-inducing segments like LJ & Willie, they should be relegated to the farthest corner of the storyboard. Same w/ Rog & Bree, they should be placed in the back burner, tho' I still wanna know whatever happened to li'l Jem & how Cameron will succeed in making Bree show him the much-coveted treasure, I'm more keen on reading J & C, plus young Ian & Rachel. I want more crunchy moments between Jamie & Willie, as everyone w/ eyes can see their striking resemblance. I still lued her characters' dynamics but I preferred a tighter pacing & more resolutions to dangling threads than just the daily occurrences. 4 years is helluva long time to wait.

Lynn says

After several thousand pages of build-up, the Revolutionary War is finally here — and with it, the excitement of the early *Outlander* novels returns. No offense to the residents of Fraser's Ridge, but it's a lot more fun to see Jamie and Claire interacting with Benedict Arnold than Hiram Crombie. They may be older and wiser than they were back in the *Dragonfly in Amber* and *Voyager* days, but this book has more in common with those two novels than it does with the last few that preceded it. I can't help but feel that the Frasers are back in their element; a life of quiet domesticity may just not be their thing.

What else can I say about *Echo*? Several characters and storylines from the early books (and even the Lord John series) return, but several new, very likeable characters are introduced as well. There were enough twists, turns, and mysteries to keep me glued to the pages... and I hope it won't take forever for the next *Outlander* book to come out because quite a few surprises happen late in this one and don't get resolved before the end.

LJ says

First Sentence: The pirate's head had disappeared.

In this 7th book to the Outlander series, Jamie, Claire and Ian are leaving the Ridge headed for Scotland to take Ian back to his family and bring Jamie's printing press back to the Colonies. Roger and Brianna have returned to the present and have settled at Lallybroch, but they've not completely left the past behind. William is anxious to prove himself in battle and Lord John is dealing with his family, both in England and in Pennsylvania.

I was both delighted and disgusted with this book. Either way, it is clear Ms. Gabaldon (1) rushed the ending and (2) does not have a continuity editor. The story was so rife with coincidence as to almost be humorous. There were so many characters with significant stories it diluted each of the stories. However, there were also historical characters whose presence may have added a veracity to the period but added little to the story.

Jamie and Claire are the focal point of the series. You'd never know that from this book where we jump between Jamie and Claire, Roger and Brianna, Lord John, William, and Denny and Rachael Hunter. The continual jumps in time and focus felt more as though it was bad episodic television than reading what should have been a wonderfully engrossing novel. In addition, there were inaccuracies and terrible inconsistencies that should have been caught.

What makes it difficult is that, in essence I did like the book. There were scenes which touched my heart and even brought tears to my eyes. Gabaldon is very good at tugging the heartstrings. There were scenes of suspense and humor. However, there were also scenes where critically important information was being conveyed among the characters, but the reader was exited from the scene. All the scenes were so scattered throughout the story, it caused the pacing to be very uneven.

...and the ending; I am loathe to even mention the ending. To say it felt rushed would be kind. To say there were more story threads left dangling than a cat playing in a yarn basket would be an understatement. To say it was frustrating and extremely disappointing does not strongly enough express my feelings toward the ending.

Were Ms. Gabaldon a poor writer, I could dismiss all this and walk away, but she is not. I have absolutely loved all the previous books in this series; yes, even Fiery Cross. She has created characters about whom I care and have taken to my hearts. She has created a story in which I am invested both in time--both in reading time alone and in the number of years this series has been part of my life--and in money--I own the books in hardcover, trade paperback and the audio books.

Ms. Gabaldon is, apparently, going to fix some of the mistakes found in the hardcover edition of this book prior to the trade paperback edition being released. That's all well and good, but it still leaves those of us with the hardcover edition, particularly where I bought 6 signed copies at full price, with error-laden books. I should have much preferred the errors be caught and corrected in the first place.

I shall continue with the series as these characters are now part of my life and I really want to know where the story goes. However, I do feel Ms. Gabaldon has a responsibility, both to herself and to her very faithful legion of fans, to spend more time and do a better job on Book 8.

Alaina Meserole says

I'm back on the Outlander train...again. Mostly because I just want to finish this series!

I definitely dived into *An Echo in the Bone* without expectations. WHY? Well, because I already knew it was probably going to be like 100x longer than it needed to be. It might be poring in a ton of parts. I might not like it?

What do you get from this book? Well lots of POV's to start! We get Claire, Jamie, Brianna, Roger, Ian, John, William, and so much more! This made me so happy because I was kind of getting sick of reading from Claire's POV. Not that I hate the girl or anything.. but it was getting annoying and boring. Unfortunately, I was kind of getting annoyed with Brianna's POV because it was like reading from Claire's...

There is adventure in here too. Plus Claire and Jamie also find trouble.. or does trouble always find them?!? Either way the book makes you think they wont get from point A to point B but in the end they do. They

always do.

The one POV I loved was probably from William. I don't really know how to explain it but it was refreshing to read from. I was definitely shipping him with Rachel!! Ugh, they were adorable!

Overall, I liked the book but I still found it boring and super long. Maybe if it was cut in half I would've enjoyed it more?

Cassandra Dexter Colby says

Le pongo tres a regañadientes... Me ha sobrado mucho rollo bélico y médico que no hacía sino ralentizar la narración. Diana se documenta, vale, pero no veo necesario tanto detalle en cosas que no aportan nada. Luego llega a los últimos capítulos, se fuma un porro y mete el acelerador, además de hacer que algunos personajes actúen de forma más que rara. Si lo leéis y os empieza a parecer un rollo, hacedme caso y pasad páginas cuando le dé por describir cómo operar una almorrana.

Holly says

TOP TEN REASONS WHY THE OUTLANDER SERIES IS BETTER THAN THE TWILIGHT SERIES

10. Heroine is not complimented on how delicious her blood smells. Instead, she is told that her ass looks like two ripe melons. Just what every woman wants.
9. When the hero has to rescue the heroine, he doesn't merely have to run at lightning speed across the parking lot. He actually has to travel halfway across the world, kill a few dozen villains, and blow up a few buildings.
8. But that doesn't matter because just as often the heroine can rescue her own damn self.
7. Pirates are WAY better than vampires.
6. The creepy, obsessive dude is an actual villain and not the hero of the story.
5. The denouement involves actual danger, as opposed to what essentially amounts to a Rainbow Gathering gone awry.
4. The doctor doesn't come off as a pedophile.
3. Not one single Renesmee in the entire series.
2. Nobody is sparkly.
1. People actually have sex, and lots of it.

Claudia B says

And this is it for me and the Outlander series.

There is a section in the Outlandish Companion where Diana talks about authors who do so much research and then make their readers "pay" for it. Meaning, if the author read about it, she's going to put it in the book, regardless of how much it contributes to the actual story.

I think that Diana is now doing the same. I've been a loyal fan of hers since I first read Outlander, but I'm done. I can't deal with an endless series where just because she's now researching the whole damn War of Independence we need to find out about what a soldier's buttons say or whatever the next cute bit of minutiae she stumbled upon.

I don't feel like "paying" for it anymore. I didn't even buy this book because I was so wary of how it would turn out, and it was pretty much as I'd dreaded. Chapter upon chapter filled with hundreds of characters I don't even care about. I don't think I'll even request the future books from the library. Yes, books, because honestly, this whole scam of "oh, just one more book" has worn me out. First it was a trilogy; then it was six books, three for the Uprising and three for the New World; oh wait, it was eight books - oh, Diana just keeps finding more stuff to string us along.

I've already abandoned one series where I got tired of the author writing for herself - the Anita Blake series - and now I'm sad that I'm done with the Outlander series.

If I'm still alive when the last book in the series comes out, I'll go to Borders and see how it ended, but I won't pay with my money or my time any more.

Emily says

I am an Outlander series fan. Yes I am. I love Jamie (to an embarrassing extent), Claire and the whole cast of random modern and 18th C. characters that fill the many, many pages of Gabaldon's books. While not fine literature, I can always count on her great storytelling to completely draw me into her world over and over again (to the detriment of my normal life, and my husband's chagrin).

That said, while I did enjoy this book there were a number of things about the writing that bothered me:

1. The author has another series of books based on a minor character from this series. This is the first time in the Outlander series that I felt lost because I hadn't read the Lord John series. Annoying.
2. Because so much time was spent developing this secondary story line, the main characters get the shaft. More than annoying.

There were a few other things that annoyed me (too much war/battle details - yawn, THE ENDING WAS CRAZY) but that I think will bother me less upon a second reading.

Yes, I read these books multiple times. Did I mention that I love Jamie?

Heather McCubbin says

I was disappointed and miss the old Jamie and Claire! Sorry, Diana, but the characters are tired, there are many new characters I found hard to keep track of, and the few that reappeared seem to come back suddenly then leave just as quickly, all so that loose end could be tied up.

I found myself asking: "Who is ___ again? " upon the first chapter and I totally skimmed through any of Lord Grey's appearances. I didn't like his standalone books and felt she was trying to insert him into the "Outlander" series as a major character.

The only parts I read word for word were Brianna and Roger and most of the last 1/4 of the book b/c I was told, "*Read the last 100 pages.*" The action picked up quite a bit during the last 1/4 but then stopped suddenly like I hit a wall. There are many loose ends that are tied up but just as many that are left untied. I found contradictions in characters and some of the decisions they made (***SPOILER*** -----like the reason Claire went back to the US; why would Claire sleep with someone so soon after she thought Jamie was dead) weren't true to their character. Most likely, I will not read the next book and hope to find someone who can just sum it up for me.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Bloody hell, I'm freaking tired!

So here's the deal. Most of my friends here on Goodreads know that I have been listening to these cd's from the library. Well, I just happened to check the status of their return because I should have had one more month for them to be renewed. Nooooooooooooooo, on this book someone placed a hold and it's due soon so luckily I started listening to it a few days ago, but now I'm freaking tired because I have had to listen almost non stop while reading another book. Not much sleep. I do not like to listen to audio books for that long even if I LOVE the narrator!

Anyhoo, I'm done and I can take my time with the next audio =)

I didn't like this book as much as the other ones and it didn't even make my favorites list! =(All the other books are 5 star favorites. Oh well =(

I don't like that the family is all broken up and in different places and of course Bree, Roger and the kids are back in the real time world. I must have missed the explanation at the beginning because Bree and Roger are able to read letters from Claire and Jamie. I don't get it and I'm not going to look for it. Oh, there was a book though that was written by Jamie, gave me a little tear in my eye when Roger read it.

Grandfather Tales, the book was titled, with the subtitle, "Stories from the Highlands of Scotland and the Backcountry of the Carolinas," by James Alexander Malcolm MacKenzie Fraser. Again, printed by A. Bell, Edinburgh, in the same year. The dedication said simply, For my grandchildren.

Claire's portrait had made him laugh; this one moved him almost to tears, and he closed the book gently.

That was Roger that read that and he had seen a picture of Claire.

Bree and Roger live in Lallybroch. I reckon they fixed it up all nice. It just breaks my heart.

William (Jamie's son) is in the book more, what with him in the war and all.

Jamie and Claire go back to Scotland after awhile and we get to meet up with some of the old characters, Jenny, Ian and the kids, who are grown up. And there is a death. And of course, on their way back to Scotland they get attacked by pirates and such again. Just stay off the freaking waters!

Fergus and the gang are in the book a little bit.

I'm hoping the next book is better than this one and I can get back to loving them or I'm going to kick something! I'm not listening to it right away though because, uh, I'm done listening for a little while after this one! I need a break!

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

The Library Lady says

Diana Gabaldon needs to finish this series. In fact, she needed to finish it in this book:

If she is so crazy about Lord John, keep writing those books about him. Personally, he bores me, and I skipped over those sections. I'm not that into William either, even if he IS Jamie's son.

How many times can Claire and Jamie run into pirates and take over a ship? She's done this before in Voyager. And there's lots of other material that repeats or echoes stuff in previous, better books.

There are too many points of view and too much skipping from place to place. If you're not interested enough in your characters to stay on them for more than a chapter or so, why bother?

And last, but not least, virtually EVERYONE is left in a cliffhanger situation. Nothing is anywhere near being resolved--it just ends!

This whole book could have been cut down by about 3/4, added to whatever she is planning for a (hopefully)

final book, and published when she is ready to publish that one.

But she yielded--to her publishers, her agent, her fans, whoever and as a result we have this mess of a book.

Sad, really.

Jamie Collins says

The five stars are an expression of my *Outlander* fangirl enthusiasm, since I'm incapable of objectively judging the quality of these books. I'd probably have given five stars to anything that wasn't a huge disappointment. Which this wasn't, of course; I thought it was quite good.

The first couple hundred pages are admittedly a little slow. We get a lot of POV from Lord John and 19-yr-old William, and there is some crossover from the LJ spin-off series, which I think may be confusing for people who haven't read those books. I like John and William very much, but in this series I really want to read about Jamie and Claire and fortunately the book soon begins to focus more on them.

The last hundred pages are riveting and really quite shocking. But after the earlier slow pacing they felt a little rushed, and the ending is abrupt. It was made worse because I didn't realize that there is an author's note at the end, so the story stopped suddenly when I thought there were still a few pages to go! If I weren't such a fangirl I would probably dock the book a star for concluding with multiple dramatic cliffhangers, which I in general dislike. I don't remember the other books in this series leaving us hanging in mid-scene! There are also some storylines left unresolved, so even at 800+ pages this felt like the first half of an extremely long novel.

But *dreamy sigh* the book thrilled me anyway. Gabaldon claims to write in scenes, and when I re-read these books I do tend to skim some of the connecting narrative and focus on my favorite scenes, and there are plenty of new favorites in this one. Claire's medical work is as fascinating as always, particularly a long sequence which I had already read as an excerpt in *The Outlandish Companion*.

Mo says

"God, your arse looks fine, wi' the wet linen of your shift clinging to it, it goes all transparent, and I can see the weight of your buttocks, like great smooth round melons ..."

I sort of wondered when I started this book if I was going into *Outlander* overload and that I might tire of it seeing as I have read 6 of the books in the space of 2 months or so.

No, this book was wonderful, for the most part. I must admit there were some parts with Lord John and

William that my eyes sort of glazed over and I lost interest a bit. Only so much I want to read about a boot and foot stuck in a boggy hole!

“This is the thin time, when the beloved dead draw near. The world turns inward, and the chilling air grows thick with dreams and mystery.”

We meet the characters from the previous books. Of course, Jamie and Claire are still my favourites. Bloody “autocomplete”, I spell favourite with a fecking “u”!!! It got it eventually.

Roger and Brianna - wonderful. I love them. Wee Jemmy, what a sweetie.

”Have ye ever in the slightest doubt that I need ye?”, he demanded.

“No, to the best of my knowledge, you needed me urgently the moment I saw you and I haven’t had reason to think you’ve got any more self-sufficient since.”

I have read some reviews that say the last part of the book is somewhat rushed and ended abruptly. I did not find that. It was a rushed in such a way that a LOT happens, my mind was spinning. Of course, it's easy for me to say that as I can dive straight into Book 8. I would have died if I had to wait a year or so to find out what happens next.

He would make her a new garden one day, God willing.

There were pathways in the dark. I knew; I had seen people die. despite physical decay, there was no dying until the pathway was found. I couldn’t - yet - find mine.

Ian, love him too. We catch up with most of the characters. Fergus, Marsali. Jenny and Ian. Lallybroch. Rollo! I did shed a tear during one part of the book.

”I canna thank of ye dead, Claire. Anything else - but not that. I can’t.”

Jacqie says

So I love Diana Gabaldon. I wish she would write faster than one new book every four years in the Outlander series, but whatcha gonna do. So Of course I've been waiting with bated breath for this one.

Writing: still draws you into the characters' lives. They are so human, so loving, so flawed yet continuously striving.

Characters: this book has four main plots (yes, four). We get Jamie and Claire, but we also get Ian (who I like to read about), Roger and Brianna (who I found annoying earlier in the series but now really am enjoying), and William and Lord John. That last plot thread really plods. I don't get the sense of empathy with these two characters that I can get with the others. There's lots of plotting and intrigue that really doesn't amount to much. I think the author is a frustrated mystery writer, but the mystery parts of her books don't do nearly as much for me as the time travel, romances, adventure, history, and humor.

Plot: I don't know if I can forgive her for this. She wrote a great book and then failed to end it. Three of the four plots threads end with characters in terrible danger or a major unresolved issue. Why would she do this? In a book that's 800 pages long, it's not like she worries much about editing. Couldn't she write another 50 to 100 pages and get them out of those messes? The cliffhangers are ridiculous when we will probably have to wait another 4 years to see them resolved. No matter how much tension she generates, four years will make it die down. I can't write in any dignified way how upset I am by this- it's cheap, a cheat, and unfair to her faithful readers.

Foxfire780 Reeves says

I am a devout DG/Outlander fan, so of course I read Echo in the Bone as fast as I could get my mitts on it...and it left me sorely disappointed!

I actually skipped pages! She said that there were four story lines (hence the four points on the Caltrop on the cover) and I was excited at first. But when I got into the story, I got bored with the overlong passages about William and John's intrigues. Where were Jamie and Claire?? (And why the hell can't they manage a sea voyage without trouble??) I actually started to wish I could read about Brianna (one of my least favorite people...)

I heard her say there was going to be another book after this one (the ongoing belief was that this book was going to be the last one) which is very apparent after this book that there has to be one more. But I feel like if she had cut half of the story out and finished the cliffhanging story lines, she could be done by now, and I could have peace of mind knowing the story is over! I mean I really don't appreciate being led on for 2/3 of a book and then have four different surprise endings.

Some other smaller points:

- felt choppy
- dragged at points and then skipped over more interesting points
- not enough Jamie and Claire!!!

I'm going to read it again more slowly to see if my opinion changes, but first I need to let the dust settle on my disappointment.

EDIT

OK, So I've had some time to sit and ruminate on the experience of this book and why I couldn't pinpoint the niggling reason (like bothering a sore tooth with your tongue) why I was so disappointed. There were the shallow obvious reasons of course, like four surprise endings, but deeper still ran something vague and unnameable until now. See, as silly as it sounds, I became emotionally invested in the characters and stories of Jamie and Claire, and rightly so, a good book should make you care about its characters.

Being a typical DG fangirl, I've read all the Outlander novels without much complaint, and re-read, and re-read, and re-read. I don't think I can do that with this book. I think there are about 100 pages I'd be willing to go through again. So yeah, I'm angry that I don't have another book to keep re-reading, as psycho as it sounds.

I'm not really sure if I should be angry at Diana Gabaldon, her editor, her publisher, or anyone else who read this book before it went to press and didn't tell her she needed to get a pair of proverbial scissors. Of course I'll be getting the next and hopefully last book, but with a lesser amount of trust and a greater wariness.
