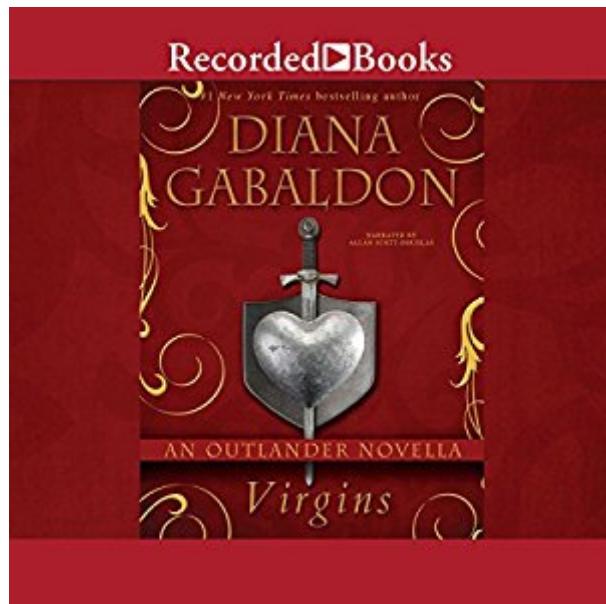


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# Virgins: An Outlander Short



## **Synopsis**

Mourning the death of his father and gravely injured at the hands of the English, Jamie Fraser finds himself running with a band of mercenaries in the French countryside, where he reconnects with his old friend, Ian Murray. Both are nursing wounds, both have good reason to stay out of Scotland, and both are still virgins despite several opportunities to remedy that deplorable situation with ladies of easy virtue. But Jamie's love life becomes infinitely more complicated - and dangerous - when fate brings the young men into the service of Dr. Hasdi, a Jewish gentleman who hires them to escort two priceless treasures to Paris. One is an old Torah; the other is the doctor's beautiful daughter, Rebekah, destined for an arranged marriage. Both Jamie and Ian are instantly drawn to the bride-to-be - but they might be more cautious if they had any idea who they're truly dealing with.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hoursÂ  Â andÂ  Â 3 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: April 8, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01DYH4W1I

Best Sellers Rank: #44 inÂ  Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Military  
#59 inÂ  Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction #97 inÂ  Â Books  
> Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Action & Adventure

## **Customer Reviews**

Diana Gabaldon consistently delivers for her fans. This novella, *Virgins*, is yet another mini installment in the "behind the story" story that she presents to us in an attempt to give us a glimpse into events that were spoken of but never really explored fully in her book series. Everyone that loves *Outlander* and her other books LOVES Jamie Fraser and can't get enough of these mini stories to keep us going between books. This is definitely NOT a stand alone story and you wouldn't have a clue as to what was going on if you didn't read the *Outlander* series, or at the very least, the first book itself. Ian and Jamie are young in this story, Jamie just having escaped from confinement in an English prison. He has just encountered his nemesis, Black Jack, for the first time and is lucky to be alive. Ian is traveling with a band of mercenaries and Jamie hopes to join them in the hopes of

staying clear of Scotland and staying close to the one man he trusts like a brother. What I liked about this is that Jamie is very young here and we have had little exposure to him at that age. He is a naïve boy who has just suffered extreme punishment and lost his father and homeland quite suddenly. He's trying to fit in among these seasoned men in France and he is just learning the ropes. I almost feel like a fly on the wall! That is where our story begins, and I doubt you will be disappointed. Hold on to your kilt! It took me about 3 hours this morning to finish, in between a few phone calls and laundry. It's a great prelude to the second season of Outlander beginning on STARZ tomorrow! Now I REALLY can't wait!

I was a late-comer to the Outlander series having not read the first novel, 'Outlander,' until mid-2014. Once started however, I read the existing books in the series in rapid succession and then waited breathlessly for 'Written in My Own Heart's Blood.' I wish I could say that each successive book was as perfect as 'Outlander,' but that is not the case. I still enjoyed each reading experience, but not as much as my 'first time.' Which brings me now to 'Virgins,' a novella of Jamie and Ian as mercenaries. 'Virgins' reminds me of why I fell in love with Jamie and the whole Outlander universe. From the opening scene to the last word, the reader is treated to Jamie's courage, strength and heart, all firmly in place and well developed pre-Claire. Diana Gabaldon lets us inside Jamie's deep mourning and wracking guilt over the death of his father as well as his on-going worry over his sister, Jenny, in the wake of Black Jack Randall's mayhem. We see Ian as a whole, strong man as well as the dynamic of his relationship to Jamie in a way we've never seen it before. What 'Virgins' does is that it gives us another dimension to both characters that makes them, if possible, even more compelling. Bottom line: it's a solid read. Don't be put off, if you've read the main series, by thinking that this short story can't add anything to an already richly tapestryed world. What you'll read is the glorious mix of heart breaking pathos, laugh-out-loud humor, and action that is vintage Diana Gabaldon. Read it. You won't be sorry.

I love the Outlander novels! They are well written and well researched. However, this confection was not as well written and the (spoiler alert?) bit about the Jewish wedding was inaccurate. There are three parts to a Jewish wedding. The first is when the *katubah* (ancient wedding contract) is signed. At this point the bridegroom lifts the bride's veil, a handkerchief if freely passed between them as a sign that the marriage is voluntary on the part of the bride, and the *katubah* is signed by two men who have witnessed that the woman enters the marriage of her own free will. The second part may happen the same day or even a few years later. This is when the couple is formally

married under a chuppah without a veil covering the bride's face, a ring is placed on the bride's first finger of her right hand (accurately portrayed), and rather well-known, a glass is broken to symbolize, in part, that the marriage is something that cannot be undone. A third part, physical Union of the couple that takes place immediately after the chuppah ceremony, even before the couple join the reception.

I love Outlander. Have loved it for years. But who really wrote this? This book is a waste of time and two dollars. As if wasting 2\$ is possible. There is nothing of the Diana Gabaldon that I love, in this book. I feel Like MOBY is the same way. And to some extent ,Echo. I will still read any future books but do not feel very hopeful.

Huge fan of the Outlander series, but feel suckered after buying Gabaldon's "novellas". Really these are likely chapters edited from her capacious novels in the series, and having read all of them more than once, these little things don't add a thing for the reader, but probably help her buy another car or vacation home. This one is about Jaimie and Ian in France prior to the Outlander series beginning (a bit of a prequel) but is not at all compelling to any but her ardent fans.

I'm a huge fan of Diana Gabaldon's works, but this story fell flat. I did not care for this book at all. Given the fact this was about Jamie and Ian's time as soldiers in France, I expected it to fill in the blanks of their time together and deepen our understanding of what we know about Jamie and Ian. I didn't feel as if I gained anything of value as far as any deeper understanding of these characters, nor anything which would further explain the depth of the bond that existed between them. The other Outlander novellas 'The Space Between' and 'A Leaf on the Wind of All Hallows' are much better. Both of these novellas gave interesting information that enhanced the Outlander series, but didn't quite 'fit in' with telling Claire and Jamie's stories. In addition, both of these stories made me craving more.

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