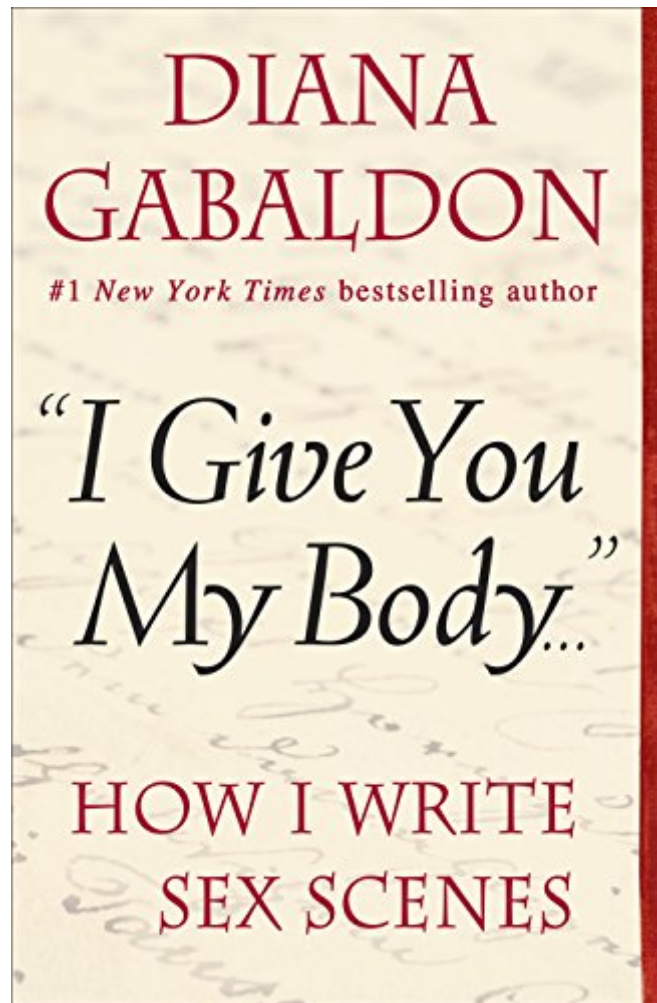


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# "I Give You My Body . . .": How I Write Sex Scenes (Kindle Single)



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • For writers looking to make sure their next physical interlude on the page inspires readers to share the moment rather than to laugh at it, bestselling author Diana Gabaldon divulges the writing secrets behind the sex scenes in her wildly popular Outlander novels. "Ask me to your bed," he said. "I shall come to ye." In this revealing compendium, acclaimed writer Diana Gabaldon shares her invaluable lessons for creating an immersive reading experience, from evoking a mood to using the power of emotions to communicate physical intimacy. You'll learn the difference between gratuitous sex and genuine encounters that move the story forward, and how to handle less-than-savory acts that nevertheless serve a narrative purpose. Gabaldon also notes that sex can be conveyed instead of described. With such tips as "The Rule of Three" for involving the senses, handy lists of naughty euphemisms (with instructions for use), and Gabaldon's own examples from the Outlander novels, "Give You My Body . . ." is a master class in writing to draw readers in and keep them riveted to the page.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this short work, Diana Gabaldon gives us her secrets for writing sex scenes that draw readers into a story emotionally. Using several examples, most drawn from her own works, and employing a delightful sense of humor, Gabaldon is able to explain why certain types of sex scenes illuminate

characters, carry the plot forward, and leave readers feeling fulfilled, while others leave them either squirming with embarrassment or bored. If you look closely, however, you'll see this book gives you more than simply information about how to write sex scenes. Gabaldon shows you how to draw a person into a scene, any scene, by using such writing techniques as varying the focus of the scene (close-up vs. panoramic), using a touchstone (something familiar to anchor the reader in a scene), and employing the Rule of Three (use three or more of the senses--taste, touch, sight, sound, smell--to give the reader a visceral sensation of being somewhere, again to anchor him or her in the scene). This book is like an advanced writer's course. It shows that writing a good sex scene is about so much more than just sex. And beyond that, it shows how to write a good scene, whether sex is involved or not.

...of Diana Gabaldon's writing methods and style laid out in such a matter of fact manner was so much fun for me! Her sense of humor and candid language simplifies the process of writing about sex while at the same time gives the reader ways to create more complex emotional scenes. This is far more than a "how to" book. By reading this I actually gained a deeper understanding of the Outlander characters. Two thumbs up!!

Thoroughly enjoyable, instructional, wonderful examples of the when, how, why of getting down to business. I can't imagine a more direct informative aid on the subject. Included is a useful scene reference, but pencil illustrations look like distracting fan art.

Diana Gabaldon is hands down my favorite writer. I've read all of her books (some of them multiple times). Her writing always captivates me. I always find it fascinating when she discusses her writing process. The craft of writing interests me greatly even though I have no talent for it myself. This book is very engaging as it deals with the craft of writing and Diana's humor shines throughout. The illustrations are a wonderful addition. They are very well done. I have no artistic talent; so I am always amazed at what can be done with just pencil and paper.

As a writer, it's always nice to get writing advice from an author you admire and respect. This book could be entitled *How to Write*, but it does focus on the sex scenes. The advice, however, is applicable to any fiction writing, as it reminds the writer to use all the senses, let the reader use their imagination, all excellent advice, no matter what sort of scene you're writing. Written in Ms. Gabaldon's eloquent and sometimes hilarious style, this writing guide is as entertaining as it is

informative.

I'll be honest. At this point, I'm such an Outlander fan, I'll probably read whatever Diana writes. Even the slow moving Lord John series (the ebb and flow of those are just...I don't know). Anyway, I finished this in less than a day, and my main takeaway is that there's a lot of info here that can be used for more than just writing sex scenes. I'm in the midst of finishing two books right now, and I'm devouring as much info as I can on writing, and stories. This gave me a lot of great information on helping your readers really feel what's going on with your characters, and perhaps even put themselves in there (we all do that, right? Right.) so they can experience it too. I've started working out how the Rule of 3 can help my stories resonate with my characters, and why some scenes aren't as straightforward as you might think during your first draft. Highly recommend for all aspiring writers (she does put sex scenes she's written in there to show why and how to use her tips, so FYI if you're sensitive to that kind of thing).

This book did not disappoint! And believe me, I've read a few "how-to" books that did. Writing love or sex scenes can make the best of us a bit squeamish at times. Ever feel as though the scene is overdone or too juvenile? Take heart, in her book Ms. Gabaldon shows not tells us how to write with humor and candid language that doesn't turn our script into a purple nightmare of adjectives and adverbs. Maybe you're not a fan of historical fiction, or maybe you've no plans to add a sex scene to your novel, but every writer can learn something from her secrets for showing character emotion. For the soul of a story is the characters. Their emotions are what connects the reader. Ms. Gabaldon breaks down scene by scene her secrets for drawing the reader in and letting them feel what the character is feeling.

I have read all of Gabaldon's books, and enjoyed this one as well. While I truly treasure the actual advice given, especially the details of variety in scenes, and how to zero in on particular senses, I was slightly disappointed that the majority of the text was excerpts from her book. I realize they were needed for example, but I thought it was a bit on the excessive size. I wanted more meat, and less icing, I suppose. Still, it is valuable information and definitely worth the price. As an aside, the Chapter 11 title made me laugh. The first sex scene I ever wrote was that between my parents, the act that actually conceived me, for my novelization of their love story (Better to Have Loved). Talk about awkward!

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