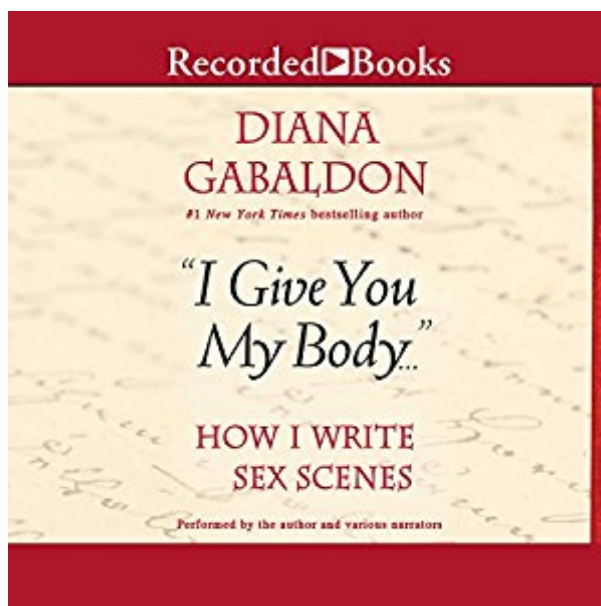


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"I Give You My Body...": How I Write Sex Scenes



Synopsis

For writers looking to make sure their next physical interludes on the page inspire readers to share the moment rather than to laugh at it, best-selling 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, "I Give You My Body..." is a master class in writing to draw readers in and keep them riveted to the page.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hours and 30 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: November 22, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01N42KEMX

Best Sellers Rank: #13 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Art #65

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Language Arts & Disciplines #166 in Books >

Humor & Entertainment > Pop Culture > Art

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.

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!

I Give You My Body by Diana Gabaldon reads like a friendly chat with the author. Her use of examples throughout the book really helps to illustrate the advice she writes about. The two main takeaways for me are underpainting and the rule of three. The underpainting to add depth and realism to the scene, and how she does it was illuminating. The rule of three using 3 out of the 5 (or 6 if writing paranormal) senses was powerful and something I am adding to my writing toolbox for sure. I highly recommend this book to writers and readers alike.

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.

If you're a writer and you've been stuck on those sex scenes then this is the book for you. I have been able to master every scene but the sex scene and Diana Gabaldon masterfully explains the development, the intent and the real method of creating interest of every kind of sex scene. This teaches more about what goes on between the ears than between the sheets and I couldn't be happier because I'm not into writing pornographic scenes but there are points where you need to have a plan for adults reading about adults that doesn't have to be explicit. Expect explicit language even if you don't intend to use it because she does go over a lot of variations of sex scenes. All-in-all I found this book to be a refreshing treatment of the topic and I salute DG in revealing to everyone how to go about writing effective (as in they did the job required of them) sex scenes. I highly recommend this book.

At the recommendation of peers on how to improve my writing, I just finished *I Give You My Body* and *Romancing the Beat*. They were both excellent. If you want to understand where you're going wrong, or have room to improve immediately, grab *Romancing the Beat*. It was so digestible, easy, and humorous. There's even a beat sheet in the back that's close to what I write and create. It taught me where to slow down, build up the anticipation, create tension, and where to release it. *I Give You My Body* gets into the details of creating intimacy - even in the nastiest of experiences, like rape - and how to really draw it out through action, emotion, and environment. I admit *IGYMB* made me skip some passages - I just wasn't ready - or built - for some of the scenes in the *Nasty Sex* chapter. They aren't graphic, but the emotion is really there, and you don't always want to experience those things when you're reading. But it's an amazing reference tool to learn how to use sexual intimacy to build the relationships in your characters. Both combined make for a purchase less than \$10, and worth that investment in my humble opinion.

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