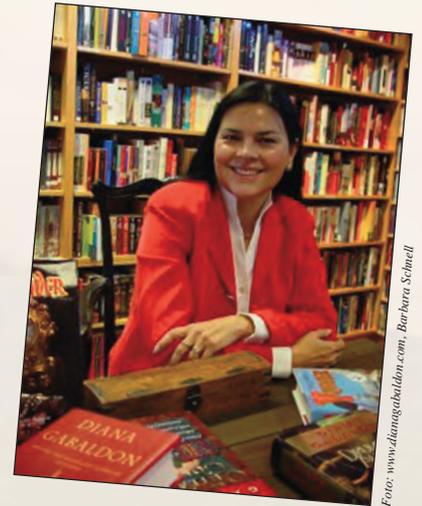


„Outlander“

Diana Gabaldon im Interview



In unserer aktuellen Ausgabe, *Karfunkel* Nr. 119, gibt es passend zur Titelgeschichte („Mit Kilt und Dudelsack: Schottlands Freiheitskämpfe“) ein Interview mit der amerikanischen Schriftstellerin Diana Gabaldon. Sie ist die Schöpferin der sogenannten „Outlander-Saga“, einem Roman-Mehrteiler, der weltweit seit zwei Jahrzehnten die Bestseller-Listen stürmt. Inzwischen wurde der erste Band, der in Deutschland unter dem Titel „Feuer und Stein“ erschienen ist, als TV-Adaption verfilmt und auch schon in Deutschland als erste Staffel ausgestrahlt. Die Dreharbeiten zur zweiten Staffel laufen bereits. Während Diana Gabaldon im Mai zum TV-Start der Serie und zur Neuauflage des ersten Bandes in Deutschland war, hatte *Karfunkel* Gelegenheit, mit ihr zu sprechen. Und wie in unserer Print-Ausgabe Nr. 119 angekündigt, gibt es hier nun die englische Originalversion des Interviews.

Karfunkel:

Outlander was your first novel. Why did you choose the time of the Jacobite risings in Scotland as background for the story?

Diana Gabaldon:

I wrote Outlander for practice, in order to learn how to write a novel. That being so, I said to myself, „What's the easiest kind of novel I could write? (no sense in making it more difficult than necessary...)“ I decided that for me, an historical novel might be the easiest; I was a research professor--I knew my way around a library. I also thought that it seemed easier to look things up than to make them up, and if I turned out to have no imagination, I could steal things from the historical record. (This works really well, by the way...)

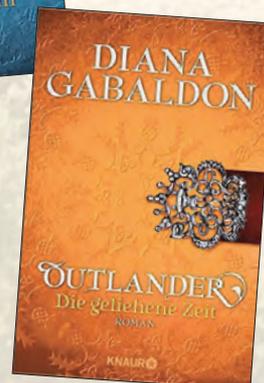
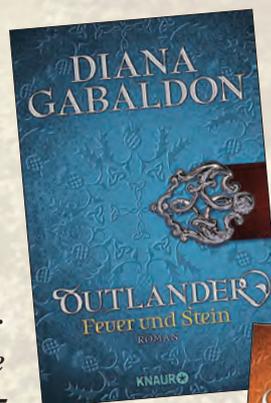
So...historical novel--where to set this? (I have no background in history, to speak of.) So

I was looking for an interesting period in which to set this novel, and happened to see a really old episode of „Dr. Who“ (a British fantasy show). The Doctor of the title is a Time Lord from the planet Gallifrey (but no, that had nothing at all to do with the time-travel in my novel--that happened for a completely different reason), who travels through space and time, and picks up companions from different periods of Earth's history. In this very old show, he had picked up a young Scotsman, from 1745, who appeared in his kilt.

„Well, that's rather fetching,“ I said... And then, shrugging, „You have to start somewhere--why not? Scotland, eighteenth century.“

Karfunkel:

Are there historic persons as



models for some characters, perhaps Jack Randall or Colum MacKenzie?

Diana Gabaldon:

There are real historical people in the books-- George Washington, Benedict Arnold, King George II, etc.--but no, none of the fictional people are based on anyone real; they're just themselves.

Karfunkel:

Not just the historic background of the story, but also many small details in your novel are historically accurate. Which sources did you use for investigation and inquiry?

Diana Gabaldon:

At the moment, my „core“ research collection includes 2,200 books (not counting magazines, old auction catalogs, manuscripts and other documents). Most of these titles are listed on LibraryThing (www.librarything.com), if your readers would like to explore topics like the historical backgrounds, the herbal medicine, magic beliefs, etc. (I don't really keep lists of the online sources I use--there are too many, and I use them very irregularly and usually only for a quick overview or look-up. By and large, the internet isn't the best resource for historical inquiries, though you can turn up interesting bits and pieces.)

Karfunkel:

In the TV-production, you were involved as consultant. Could you influence the show in any way?

Diana Gabaldon:

I'm very honored that the production team includes me to the degree that they do. They show me outlines and scripts, and also the daily footage that's shot as the show is being filmed, and they invite my opinion. I try to offer these opinions sparingly and diplomatically, because I want them to keep showing me things--but I'll always tell them if I see a problem, or have an idea. Naturally, they can't change everything to suit my opinion--but they're very considerate, and I'd say that nine times out of ten, if I mention some concern, they'll address it, one way or

another. (The tenth time, they'll explain to me why this or that just can't be done--owing to expense, time, or some other element of the show.) It's a good working relationship, and I'm very pleased that it's worked out that way.

Karfunkel:

Does the cast fit to the characters in the way you have seen them when you wrote the story? And who is your favourite?

Diana Gabaldon:

Physical appearance is really not that important; what matters is that an actor can embody a particular part--and the cast of the TV show does that amazingly well!

Karfunkel:

Your fans are already wondering for a long time: How is it going to go on with Jamie and Claire – and if it does, when will that be?

Diana Gabaldon:

I'm working on Book Nine of the main series now. It normally takes me about three years to write one of the Big Books (I do have other, smaller projects that I work on at the same time), and the latest of these--WRITTEN IN MY OWN HEART'S BLOOD--was released exactly a year ago. So it will be a little while before the next book is out.

Meanwhile, though, I've written a second volume of THE OUTLANDISH COMPANION (which I believe was published in Germany with a horrible title--DIE MAGISCHE STEINKREIS (the stones aren't magic, for one thing...)); I'm just finishing the copy-edit of that book, which will be released in the US this October. The two COMPANION books include detailed synopses of the main novels, Cast of Characters lists (in case you can't recall who someone is), an excellent Glossary and pronunciation guide to the Gaelic in the novels, bibliographies, family trees, floor plans and maps--and a number of Highly Opinionated Essays by the Author.

Das Interview führte Claudia Beckers-Dohlen.

