

1 Travelling Back to the 18th Century

Is Scotland a romantic set for heroes?

1 Fallen through time ?

A. Watch the trailer for the adaptation of Diana Gabaldon's bestseller *Outlander*. Take notes on the characters, periods, places and events.

B. Using the trailer, tell Claire's story *before* and *after* her time travel. What can you guess about her encounter with the young Highlander?



2 A Scottish wedding

A. Read the text with the help of [Worksheet n°45](#). Sum up Claire and Jamie's situation in your own words.

B. What image of the Highlander is given in this excerpt? Justify by quoting the text.



Trapped in 18th-century Scotland, Claire is threatened by an English soldier who wants to arrest her for spying. To save her life, she has to become a Scottish citizen by marrying a Scotsman, Jamie Fraser.

It was a "warm" Scottish day, meaning that the mist wasn't quite heavy enough to qualify as a drizzle¹, but not far off, either. Suddenly the inn door opened, and the sun came out, in the person of James. If I was a radiant bride, the groom was resplendent. My mouth fell open and stayed that way. A Highlander in full regalia² is an impressive sight – any Highlander, no matter how old, ill-favored, or crabbed³ in appearance. A tall, straight-bodied, and by no means ill-favored young Highlander at close range is breath-taking.

The thick, red-gold hair had been brushed to a smooth gleam that swept the collar of a fine lawn shirt with tucked front,

HELP!

- manly = strong / sturdy
- courtly = elegant
- courteous /'kɜːtiəs/ = well-mannered
- awe-inspiring /'ɔːɪnspəɪərɪŋ/
- romantic

belled sleeves, and lace-trimmed wrist frills that matched the cascade of the starched jabot at the throat, decorated with a ruby stickpin.

His tartan⁴ was a brilliant crimson⁵ and black that blazed among the more sedate MacKenzies in their green and white. The flaming wool, fastened by a circular silver brooch, fell from his right shoulder in a graceful drape, caught by a silver-studded sword⁶ belt before continuing its sweep past neat calves clothed in woolen hose and stopping just short of the silver-buckled black leather boots. Sword, dirk and badger-skin sporran completed the ensemble.

Well over six feet tall, broad in proportion, and striking of feature, he was a far cry from the grubby horse-handler I was accustomed to – and he knew it. Making a leg in courtly fashion, he swept me a bow of impeccable grace, murmuring "Your servant, Ma'am," eyes glinting with mischief. "Oh," I said faintly.

1. a very light rain • 2. /rɪ'ɡerliə/ in full formal dress • 3. unpleasant • 4. a woolen cloth worn by the Scottish Highlanders • 5. deep red • 6. /'sɔːd/ épée

Outlander,
Diana Gabaldon, 1991

