

= Diamonds Are Forever (novel) =

Diamonds Are Forever is the fourth novel by the English author Ian Fleming to feature his fictional British Secret Service agent James Bond . Fleming wrote the story at his Goldeneye estate in Jamaica , inspired by a Sunday Times article on diamond smuggling . The book was first published by Jonathan Cape in the United Kingdom on 26 March 1956 .

The story centres on Bond 's investigation of a diamond @-@ smuggling ring originating in the mines of Sierra Leone and ends in Las Vegas . Along the way Bond meets and falls in love with one of the members of the smuggling gang , Tiffany Case . Much of Fleming 's background research formed the basis for his non @-@ fiction 1957 book The Diamond Smugglers . Diamonds Are Forever deals with international travel , marriage and the transitory nature of life .

As with Fleming 's previous novels , Diamonds Are Forever received broadly positive reviews at the time of publication . The story was serialised in the Daily Express newspaper , first in an abridged , multi @-@ part form and then as a comic strip . In 1971 it was adapted into the seventh Bond film in the series and was the last Eon Productions film to star Sean Connery as Bond .

= = Plot = =

The British Secret Service agent James Bond is sent on an assignment by his superior , M. Acting on information received from Special Branch , M tasks Bond with infiltrating a smuggling ring transporting diamonds from mines in the Crown colony of Sierra Leone to the United States . Bond must infiltrate the smugglers ' pipeline to uncover those responsible . Using the identity of " Peter Franks " , a country house burglar turned diamond smuggler , he meets Tiffany Case , an attractive gang member who has developed an antipathy towards men after being gang @-@ raped as a teenager .

Bond discovers that the ring is operated by the Spangled Mob , a ruthless American gang run by the brothers Jack and Seraffimo Spang . He follows the trail from London to New York . To earn his fee for carrying the diamonds he is instructed by a gang member , Shady Tree , to bet on a rigged horse race in nearby Saratoga . There Bond meets Felix Leiter , a former CIA agent working at Pinkertons as a private detective investigating crooked horse racing . Leiter bribes the jockey to ensure the failure of the plot to rig the race , and asks Bond to make the pay @-@ off . When he goes to make the payment , he witnesses two homosexual thugs , Wint and Kidd , attack the jockey .

Bond calls Tree to enquire further about the payment of his fee and is told to go to the Tiara Hotel in Las Vegas . The Tiara is owned by Seraffimo Spang and operates as the headquarters of the Spangled Mob . Spang also owns an old Western ghost town , named Spectreville , restored to be his own private holiday retreat . At the hotel Bond finally receives payment through a rigged blackjack game where the dealer is Tiffany . After winning the money he is owed he disobeys his orders from Tree by continuing to gamble in the casino and wins heavily . Spang suspects that Bond may be a ' plant ' and has him captured and tortured . With Tiffany 's help he escapes from Spectreville aboard a railway push @-@ car with Seraffimo Spang in pursuit aboard an old Western train . Bond changes the points and re @-@ routes the train onto a dead @-@ end , and shoots Spang before the resulting crash . Assisted by Leiter , Bond and Tiffany go via California to New York , where they board the RMS Queen Elizabeth to travel to London , a relationship developing between them as they go . Wint and Kidd observe their embarkation and follow them on board . They kidnap Tiffany , planning to kill her and throw her overboard . Bond rescues her and kills both gangsters ; he makes it look like a murder @-@ suicide .

Tiffany subsequently informs Bond of the details of the pipeline . The story begins in Africa where a dentist bribes miners to smuggle diamonds in their mouths ; he extracts the gems during routine appointments . From there , the dentist takes the diamonds to a rendezvous with a German helicopter pilot . Eventually the diamonds go to Paris and then on to London . There , after telephone instructions from a contact known as ABC , Tiffany meets a person who explains how the diamonds will be smuggled to New York City . After returning to London ? where Tiffany moves into

Bond 's flat ? Bond flies to Freetown in Sierra Leone , and then to the next diamond rendezvous . With the collapse of the rest of the pipeline , Jack Spang (who turns out to be ABC) shuts down his diamond @-@ smuggling pipeline by killing its participants . Spang himself is killed when Bond shoots down his helicopter .

= = Background and writing history = =

By mid 1954 the author Ian Fleming had published two novels ? Casino Royale (1953) and Live and Let Die (1954) ? and had a third , Moonraker , being edited and prepared for production . That year he read a story in The Sunday Times about diamond smuggling from Sierra Leone . He considered this story as the possible basis for a new novel and , through an old school friend , he engineered a meeting with Sir Percy Sillitoe , the ex @-@ head of MI5 , then working in a security capacity for the diamond @-@ trading company De Beers . The material Fleming gathered was used in both Diamonds Are Forever and The Diamond Smugglers , a non @-@ fiction book published in 1957 .

After Fleming 's friend , William Stephenson , sent him a magazine article about the spa town of Saratoga Springs , Fleming flew to the US in August 1954 , where he met his friends Ivar Bryce and Ernest Cuneo ; the three travelled to the town in New York State . There , Fleming and Cuneo visited a mud @-@ bath : en route to an up @-@ market establishment they took the wrong directions and ended up at a run @-@ down outlet , which became the inspiration for the Acme Mud and Sulphur Baths scene in the book . Fleming met the rich socialite , William Woodward , Jr . , who drove a Studillac ? a Studebaker with a powerful Cadillac engine . According to Henry Chancellor , " the speed and comfort of it impressed Ian , and he shamelessly appropriated this car " for the book . Woodward was killed by his wife shortly afterwards ? she claimed she mistook him for a prowler ? and when Diamonds Are Forever was published , it was dedicated to Bryce , Cuneo and " the memory of W. W. Jr . , at Saratoga , 1954 and 55 " .

Fleming also travelled to Los Angeles with Cuneo , visiting the Los Angeles Police Intelligence headquarters , where they met Captain James Hamilton , who provided Fleming with information on the Mafia organisation in the US . From Los Angeles Fleming travelled to Las Vegas , where he stayed at the Sands Hotel ; he interviewed the hotel owner , Jack Entratter , where he learnt the background to the security systems and methods of cheating that he used in the novel .

Fleming wrote Diamonds Are Forever at his Goldeneye estate in Jamaica in January and February 1955 . He followed his usual practice , which he later outlined in Books and Bookmen magazine , in which he said : " I write for about three hours in the morning ... and I do another hour 's work between six and seven in the evening . I never correct anything and I never go back to see what I have written ... By following my formula , you write 2 @,@ 000 words a day . " On completion Fleming wrote to his friend Hilary Bray :

I baked a fresh cake in Jamaica this year which I think has finally exhausted my inventiveness as it contains every single method of escape and every variety of suspenseful action that I had omitted from my previous books ? in fact everything except the kitchen sink , and if you can think up a good plot involving kitchen sinks , please send it along speedily .

He returned to London with the completed 183 @-@ page typescript in March that year ; he had earlier settled on a title , which he based on an advertisement slogan " A Diamond is Forever " in the American edition of Vogue .

Although Fleming provides no dates within his novels , John Griswold and Henry Chancellor ? both of whom have written books on behalf of Ian Fleming Publications ? have identified different timelines based on events and situations within the novel series as a whole . Chancellor put the events of Diamonds Are Forever in 1954 ; Griswold is more precise , and considers the story to have taken place in July and August 1953 .

= = Development = =

== Plot inspirations ==

Fleming had previously travelled to the US on the RMS Queen Elizabeth ; the experience provided background information for the final four chapters of the novel . His trip had included a railway journey on the Super Chief , during which he and Cuneo had visited the cab to meet the driver and engineer , and an excursion on the 20th Century Limited , both of which gave information Fleming used for Spang 's train , the Cannonball . Fleming had a long @-@ standing interest in trains and following his involvement in a near @-@ fatal crash associated them with danger . In addition to Diamonds Are Forever , he used them in Live and Let Die , From Russia , with Love and The Man with the Golden Gun .

As with several others of his works , Fleming appropriated the names of people he knew for the story 's characters . The name of one of Fleming 's two travelling companions from the US , Ernest Cuneo , was used as Ernie Cuneo , Bond 's taxi @-@ driving ally in Las Vegas , and one of the homosexual villains , " Boofy " Kidd , was named after one of Fleming 's close friends ? and a relative of his wife ? Arthur Gore , 8th Earl of Arran , known to his friends as " Boofy " . Arran , an advocate of the relaxation of the British laws relating to homosexuality , heard about the use of his name before publication and complained to Fleming about it , but was ignored and the name was retained for the novel . During his trip to America Fleming had come across the name Spang ? old German for " maker of shoe buckles " ? which he appropriated for the villainous brothers .

== Characters ==

The writer Jonathan Kellerman 's introduction to the 2006 edition of Diamonds Are Forever describes Bond as a " surprisingly ... complex " character who , in contrast with the cinematic representation , is " nothing other than human Fleming 's Bond makes mistakes and pays for them . He feels pain and regret . " The novelist Raymond Benson ? who later wrote a series of Bond novels ? writes that the character develops in Diamonds Are Forever , building on Fleming 's characterisation in his previous three novels . This growth arises through Bond 's burgeoning relationship with the book 's main female character , Tiffany Case . He falls in love ; the first time he has done so since Vesper Lynd in Casino Royale . According to Benson , Tiffany is portrayed as tough , but lonely and insecure , and " is Fleming 's first fully developed female character . " The cultural historians Janet Woollacott and Tony Bennett write that many of the main female characters in Fleming 's novels are uncommon , and Tiffany ? along with Pussy Galore from Goldfinger and Honeychile Rider from Dr. No ? has been " damaged ... sexually " having previously been raped . The effect of the trauma has led to Tiffany working for the villain , which allows Bond to complete his mission , and align her to a more honest lifestyle .

The literary analyst LeRoy L. Panek observes that Diamonds Are Forever along with Goldfinger and The Man with the Golden Gun have gangsters as antagonists rather than as spies ; the novel is the only one in the Bond canon without a connection to the Cold War . Panek , comparing the gangsters to Bond 's normal adversaries , identifies them as " merely incompetent gunsels " when compared with the British agent , who can eliminate them with relative ease . The essayist Umberto Eco sees the Spangs as being a forerunner of the SPECTRE organisation Fleming uses in his later novels . Kingsley Amis , who later wrote a Bond novel , considered that there was " no decent villain " , while Eco judges three of the villains ? the two Spang brothers and Winter ? as physically abnormal , as many of Bond 's adversaries are . Anthony Synnott , in his examination of aesthetics in the Bond novels , also considers that the gangster Michael " Shady " Tree fits into the abnormal category , as he is a red @-@ haired hunchback with " a pair of china eyes that were so empty and motionless that they might have been hired by a taxidermist " .

== Style ==

Diamonds Are Forever opens with a passage in which a scorpion hunts and eats its prey , and is subsequently killed by one of the diamond couriers . Eco sees this " cleverly presented " beginning

as similar to the opening of a film , remarking that " Fleming abounds in such passages of high technical skill " . When the writer William Plomer was proof reading the manuscript he saw literary merit , and wrote to Fleming that the passages relating to the racing stables at Saratoga were " the work of a serious writer " . Kellerman considers that " Fleming 's depiction of Las Vegas in the ' 50s is wickedly spot on and one of the finest renditions of time and place in contemporary crime fiction . The story is robust and complex . "

Fleming used well known brand names and everyday details to produce a sense of realism , which Amis called " the Fleming effect " . Amis describes " the imaginative use of information , whereby the pervading fantastic nature of Bond 's world ... [is] bolted down to some sort of reality , or at least counter balanced . " Benson considers that in *Diamonds Are Forever* the use of detail is " rich and flamboyant " which allows an " interesting and amusing " description of the US . Benson considers a weakness of the book to be a lack of structural development , although this is compensated by character development ; Kellerman also believes the novel to be " rich in characterization " .

Benson analyses Fleming 's writing style and identifies what he describes as the " Fleming Sweep " : a stylistic point that sweeps the reader from one chapter to another using ' hooks ' at the end of chapters to heighten tension and pull the reader into the next : Benson feels that the sweep in *Diamonds Are Forever* was " at full force " in the novel , which " maintain [s] a constant level of excitement " as a result .

= = Themes = =

According to Benson the main theme of *Diamonds Are Forever* is expressed in the title , with the permanency of the gemstones held in contrast to other aspects of the story , particularly love and life . Towards the end of the novel Fleming uses the lines " Death is forever . But so are diamonds " , and Benson sees the gems as a metaphor for death and Bond as the " messenger of death " .

The journalist and author Christopher Hitchens observes that " the central paradox of the classic Bond stories is that , although superficially devoted to the Anglo American war against communism , they are full of contempt and resentment for America and Americans " ; Benson sees that *Diamonds Are Forever* contains examples of Fleming 's feelings of superiority towards American culture , including his description of the sleaziness of Las Vegas . Amis , in his exploration of Bond in *The James Bond Dossier* , pointed out that Leiter is

... such a nonentity as a piece of characterization ... he , the American , takes orders from Bond , the Britisher , and that Bond is constantly doing better than he , showing himself , not braver or more devoted , but smarter , wittier , tougher , more resourceful , the incarnation of little old England .

The cultural historian Jeremy Black points to the theme of international travel in *Diamonds Are Forever* , which was still a novelty to most people in Britain at the time . This travel between a number of a locations exacerbates one of the problems identified by Black : that there was no centre to the story . In contrast to the other novels in the Bond canon , where *Casino Royale* had Royale , *From Russia , with Love* had Istanbul and *Dr. No* had Jamaica , *Diamonds Are Forever* had multiple locations and two villains and there was " no megalomaniac fervour , no weird self obsession , at the dark centre of the plot " .

According to Fleming 's biographer , Andrew Lycett , after the novel was completed , Fleming added four extra chapters " almost as an afterthought " , detailing the events on the Queen Elizabeth . This introduced the question of marriage , and allowed Fleming to discuss matrimony through his characters , with Bond telling case " Most marriages don 't add two people together . They subtract one from the other . " Lycett opines that the addition was because of the state of Fleming 's own marriage which was going through a bad time .

= = Publication and reception = =

= = Publication history = =

Diamonds Are Forever was published on 26 March 1956 by Jonathan Cape with a cover designed by Pat Marriott . As with the three previous Bond books , the first edition of 12 @, @ 500 copies sold out quickly ; the US edition was published in October 1956 by Macmillan . The novel was serialised in The Daily Express newspaper from 12 April 1956 onwards ? the first of Fleming 's novels he had sold to the newspaper ? which led to an overall rise in the sales of the novels . From November 1956 sales of Diamonds Are Forever , and Fleming 's other novels , all rose following the visit of the Prime Minister , Sir Anthony Eden , to Fleming 's Goldeneye estate to recuperate following the Suez Crisis ; Eden 's stay was much reported in the British press . The book received boosts in sales in 1962 when Eon Productions adapted Dr. No for the cinema , and in 1971 when Diamonds Are Forever was produced for the big screen . In February 1958 Pan Books published a paperback version of the novel in the UK , which sold 68 @, @ 000 copies before the end of the year . Since its initial publication the book has been issued in numerous hardback and paperback editions , translated into several languages and has never been out of print .

= = = Reception = = =

Julian Symons , reviewing Diamonds Are Forever in The Times Literary Supplement , thought that Fleming had some enviable qualities as a writer , including " a fine eye for places ... an ability to convey his own interest in the mechanics of gambling and an air of knowledgeableness " . Symons also saw defects in Fleming 's style , including " his inability to write convincing dialogue " . For Symons , the novel was Fleming 's " weakest book , a heavily padded story about diamond smuggling " , where " the exciting passages are few " .

Milward Kennedy of the The Manchester Guardian , thought that Fleming was " determined to be as tough as Chandler , if a little less lifelike " , while Maurice Richardson , in The Observer , considered Bond " one of the most cunningly synthesised heroes in crime @-@ fiction " . Richardson wrote how " Fleming 's method is worth noting , and recommending : he does not start indulging in his wilder fantasies until he has laid down a foundation of factual description . " Elements of a review by Raymond Chandler for The Sunday Times were used as advertising for the novel ; Chandler wrote that it was " about the nicest piece of book @-@ making in this type of literature which I have seen for a long time ... Mr. Fleming writes a journalistic style , neat , clean , spare and never pretentious " .

Writing in The New York Times , Anthony Boucher ? described by Fleming 's biographer John Pearson as " throughout an avid anti @-@ Bond and an anti @-@ Fleming man " ? was mixed in his review , thinking that " Mr. Fleming 's handling of American and Americans is well above the British average " , although he felt that " the narrative is loose @-@ jointed and weakly resolved " , while Bond resolves his assignments " more by muscles and luck than by any sign of operative intelligence " .

= = Adaptations = =

Diamonds Are Forever was adapted as a daily comic strip for the Daily Express newspaper , and syndicated around the world . The original adaptation ran from 10 August 1959 to 30 January 1960 . The strip was written by Henry Gammidge and illustrated by John McLusky .

The novel was loosely adapted in a 1971 film starring Sean Connery and directed by Guy Hamilton . Diamonds Are Forever was the final Bond film undertaken by Sean Connery with Eon Productions , although he returned to the role of Bond twelve years later with Kevin McClory 's Taliafilm company for Never Say Never Again .

In July 2015 Diamonds Are Forever was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 , starring Toby Stephens as Bond ; it was directed by Martin Jarvis .