

= James Bond ( literary character ) =

Royal Navy Commander James Bond , CMG , RNVR , is a fictional character created by British journalist and novelist Ian Fleming in 1953 . He is the protagonist of the James Bond series of novels , films , comics and video games . Fleming wrote twelve Bond novels and two short story collections , although the last two books ? The Man with the Golden Gun and Octopussy and The Living Daylights ? were published posthumously .

The Bond character is a Secret Service agent , code number 007 , residing in London but active internationally . Bond was a composite character who was based on a number of commandos whom Fleming knew during his service in the Naval Intelligence Division during World War II , to whom Fleming added his own style and a number of his own tastes ; Bond 's name was appropriated from American ornithologist James Bond . Bond has a number of character traits which run throughout the books , including an enjoyment of cars , a love of food and drink , and an average intake of sixty custom @-@ made cigarettes a day .

Since Fleming 's death in 1964 , there have been other authorised writers of Bond material , including John Gardner , who wrote fourteen novels and two novelizations ; and Raymond Benson , who wrote six novels , three novelizations and three short stories . There have also been other authors who wrote one book each , Kingsley Amis ( writing as Robert Markham ) , Sebastian Faulks , Jeffery Deaver and William Boyd , with a further instalment due in September 2015 by Anthony Horowitz . Additionally a series of novels based on Bond 's youth ? Young Bond ? was written by Charlie Higson .

As spin @-@ offs from the literary works , there was a television adaptation of the first novel , Casino Royale , in which Bond was played as an American agent . A comic strip series also ran in the Daily Express newspaper . There have been 26 Bond films ; seven actors have played Bond in these films .

= = Fleming 's concept of Bond = =

The central figure in Ian Fleming 's work was the fictional character of James Bond , an intelligence officer in the " Secret Service " . Bond was also known by his code number , 007 , and was a Royal Naval Reserve Commander .

During World War II , Ian Fleming had mentioned to friends that he wanted to write a spy novel . It was not until 1952 , however , shortly before his wedding to his pregnant girlfriend , Ann Charteris , that Fleming began to write Casino Royale , to distract himself from his forthcoming nuptials . Fleming started writing on his first book , Casino Royale , at his Goldeneye estate in Jamaica on 17 February 1952 , typing out 2 @,@ 000 words in the morning , directly from his own experiences and imagination . He finished work on the manuscript in just over a month , completing it on 18 March 1952 . Describing the work as his " dreadful oafish opus " , Fleming showed it to an ex @-@ girlfriend , Clare Blanchard , who advised him not to publish it at all , but that if he did so , it should be under another name . Fleming went on to write a total of twelve Bond novels and two short story collections ; he died on the morning of 12 August 1964 . The last two books ? The Man with the Golden Gun and Octopussy and The Living Daylights ? were published posthumously .

= = = Inspiration for the character = = =

Fleming based his creation on a number of individuals he came across during his time in the Naval Intelligence Division during the Second World War , admitting that Bond " was a compound of all the secret agents and commando types I met during the war " . Among those types were his brother , Peter , whom Fleming worshipped and who had been involved in behind the lines operations in Norway and Greece during the war .

Aside from Fleming 's brother , a number of others also provided some aspects of Bond 's make up , including Conrad O 'Brien @-@ ffrench , a skiing spy whom Fleming had met in Kitzbühel in the 1930s , Patrick Dalzel @-@ Job , who served with distinction in 30 AU during the war , and Bill "

Biffy " Dunderdale , station head of MI6 in Paris , who wore cufflinks and handmade suits and was chauffeured around Paris in a Rolls @-@ Royce . Sir Fitzroy Maclean was another figure mentioned as a possibility , based on his wartime work behind enemy lines in the Balkans , as was the MI6 double agent Du?an Popov .

= = = Origins of the name = = =

Fleming took the name for his character from that of the American ornithologist James Bond , a Caribbean bird expert and author of the definitive field guide *Birds of the West Indies* ; Fleming , a keen birdwatcher himself , had a copy of Bond 's guide and he later explained to the ornithologist 's wife that " It struck me that this brief , unromantic , Anglo @-@ Saxon and yet very masculine name was just what I needed , and so a second James Bond was born " .

On another occasion Fleming said : " I wanted the simplest , dullest , plainest @-@ sounding name I could find , ' James Bond ' was much better than something more interesting , like ' Peregrine Carruthers ' . Exotic things would happen to and around him , but he would be a neutral figure ? an anonymous , blunt instrument wielded by a government department . " After Fleming met the ornithologist and his wife , he described them as " a charming couple who are amused by the whole joke " . In the first draft of *Casino Royale* he decided to use the name James Secretan as Bond 's cover name while on missions .

Bond 's number ? 007 ? was assigned by Fleming in reference to one of British naval intelligence 's key achievements of World War I : the breaking of the German diplomatic code . One of the German documents cracked and read by the British was the Zimmermann Telegram , which was coded 0075 , and which was one of the factors that led to the US entering the war .

= = = Looks = = =

Facially , Bond resembles the composer , singer and actor Hoagy Carmichael . In *Casino Royale* Vesper Lynd remarks , " Bond reminds me rather of Hoagy Carmichael , but there is something cold and ruthless . " Likewise , in *Moonraker* , Special Branch Officer Gala Brand thinks that Bond is " certainly good @-@ looking ... Rather like Hoagy Carmichael in a way . That black hair falling down over the right eyebrow . Much the same bones . But there was something a bit cruel in the mouth , and the eyes were cold . " Others , such as journalist Ben Macintyre , identify aspects of Fleming 's own looks in his description of Bond . General references in the novels describe Bond as having " dark , rather cruel good looks " .

In the novels ( notably *From Russia , with Love* ) , Bond 's physical description has generally been consistent : slim build ; a three @-@ inch long , thin vertical scar on his right cheek ; blue @-@ grey eyes ; a " cruel " mouth ; short , black hair , a comma of which falls on his forehead . Physically he is described as 183 centimetres ( 6 feet ) in height and 76 kilograms ( 168 lb ) in weight . After *Casino Royale* , Bond also had the faint scar of the Russian cyrillic letter " ? " ( SH ) ( for Shpion : " Spy " ) on the back of one of his hands , carved by a SMERSH agent .

= = = Background = = =

In Ian Fleming 's stories , James Bond is in his mid @-@ to @-@ late thirties , but does not age . In *Moonraker* , he admits to being eight years shy of mandatory retirement age from the 00 section ? 45 ? which would mean he was 37 at the time . Fleming did not provide Bond 's date of birth , but John Pearson 's fictional biography of Bond , *James Bond : The Authorized Biography of 007* , gives him a birth date of 11 November 1920 , while a study by Bond scholar John Griswold puts the date at 11 November 1921 . According to Griswold , the Fleming novels take place between around May 1951 , to February 1964 , by which time Bond was aged 42 .

It was not until the penultimate novel , *You Only Live Twice* , that Fleming gave Bond a sense of family background , using a fictional obituary , purportedly from *The Times* . The book was the first to be written after the release of *Dr. No* in cinemas and Sean Connery 's depiction of Bond affected

Fleming 's interpretation of the character . The novel reveals Bond is the son of a Scottish father , Andrew Bond , of Glencoe , and a Swiss mother , Monique Delacroix , of the Canton de Vaud . The young James Bond spends much of his early life abroad , becoming multilingual in German and French because of his father 's work as a Vickers armaments company representative . Bond is orphaned at the age of 11 when his parents are killed in a mountain climbing accident in the Aiguilles Rouges near Chamonix .

After the death of his parents , Bond goes to live with his aunt , Miss Charmian Bond , in the village of Pett Bottom , where he completes his early education . Later , he briefly attends Eton College at " 12 or thereabouts " , but is removed after two halves because of girl trouble with a maid . After being sent down from Eton , Bond was sent to Fettes College in Scotland , his father 's school . On his first visit to Paris at the age of 16 , Bond loses his virginity , later reminiscing about the event in " From a View to a Kill " . Fleming used his own upbringing for his creation , with Bond alluding to briefly attending the University of Geneva ( as did Fleming ) , before being taught to ski in Kitzbühel ( as was Fleming ) by Hannes Oberhauser , who is later killed in " Octopussy " .

In 1941 Bond joins a branch of what was to become the Ministry of Defence and becomes a lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve , ending the war as a commander . Bond applies to M for a position within the " Secret Service " , part of the Civil Service , and rises to the rank of principal officer .

At the start of Fleming 's first book , Casino Royale , Bond is already a 00 agent , having been given the position after killing two enemy agents , a Japanese spy on the thirty @-@ sixth floor of the RCA Building at Rockefeller Center in New York City and a Norwegian double agent who had betrayed two British agents ; it is suggested by Bond scholar John Griswold that these were part of Bond 's wartime service with Special Operations Executive , a British World War II covert military organisation . In 1954 , according to the Soviet file on him in From Russia , With Love , Bond is made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George .

= = = Tastes and style = = =

= = = = Beverages = = = =

Fleming biographer Andrew Lycett noted that , " within the first few pages [ of Casino Royale ] Ian had introduced most of Bond 's idiosyncrasies and trademarks " , which included his looks , his Bentley and his smoking and drinking habits . The full details of Bond 's martini were kept until chapter seven of the book and Bond eventually named it " The Vesper " , after Vesper Lynd .

Bond 's drinking habits run throughout the series of books . During the course of On Her Majesty 's Secret Service alone , Bond consumes forty @-@ six drinks : Pouilly @-@ Fuissé , Riquewihr and Marsala wines , most of a bottle of Algerian wine , some 1953 Château Mouton Rothschild claret , along with Taittinger and Krug champagnes and Babydam ; for whiskies he consumes three bourbon and waters , half a pint of I.W. Harper bourbon , Jack Daniel 's whiskey , two double bourbons on the rocks , two whisky and sodas , two neat scotches and one glass of neat whisky ; vodka consumption totalled four vodka and tonics and three double vodka martinis ; other spirits included two double brandies with ginger ale , a flask of Enzian Schnaps and a double gin : he also washed this down with four steins of German beer . Bond 's alcohol intake does not seem to affect his performance .

For his non @-@ alcoholic drinks Bond eschews tea , calling it " mud " and blaming it for the downfall of the British Empire . He instead prefers to drink coffee .

= = = = Cuisine = = = =

When in England and not on a mission , Bond dines as simply as Fleming did on dishes such as grilled sole , oeufs en cocotte and cold roast beef with potato salad . When on a mission , however , Bond eats more extravagantly . This was partly because in 1953 , when Casino Royale was

published , many items of food were still rationed in the UK , and Bond was " the ideal antidote to Britain 's postwar austerity , rationing and the looming premonition of lost power " . This extravagance was more noteworthy with his contemporary readers for Bond eating exotic , local foods when abroad , at a time when most of his readership did not travel abroad .

On 1 April 1958 Fleming wrote to The Manchester Guardian in defence of his work , referring to that paper 's review of Dr. No . While referring to Bond 's food and wine consumption as " gimmickery " , Fleming bemoaned that " it has become an unfortunate trade @-@ mark . I myself abhor Wine @-@ and @-@ Foodmanship . My own favourite food is scrambled eggs . " Fleming was so keen on scrambled eggs that he used his short story , " 007 in New York " , to provide his favourite recipe for the dish : in the story , this came from the housekeeper of his friend Ivar Bryce , May , who gave her name to Bond 's own housekeeper . Academic Edward Biddulph observed that Fleming fully described seventy meals within the book series and that while a number of these had items in common ? such as scrambled eggs and steaks ? each meal was different from the others .

= = = = Smoking = = = =

Bond is a heavy smoker , at one point smoking 70 cigarettes a day . Bond has his cigarettes custom @-@ made by Morland of Grosvenor Street , mixing Balkan and Turkish tobacco and having a higher nicotine content than normal ; the cigarettes have three gold bands on the filter . Bond carried his cigarettes in a wide gunmetal cigarette case which carried fifty ; he also used a black oxidised Ronson lighter . The cigarettes were the same as Fleming 's , who had been buying his at Morland since the 1930s ; the three gold bands on the filter were added during the war to mirror his naval Commander 's rank . On average , Bond smokes sixty cigarettes a day , although he cut back to around twenty five a day after his visit to a health farm in Thunderball : Fleming himself smoked up to 80 cigarettes a day .

= = = = Drugs = = = =

Bond occasionally supplements his alcohol consumption with the use of other drugs , for both functional and recreational reasons : Moonraker sees Bond consume a quantity of the amphetamine benzedrine accompanied by champagne , before his bridge game with Sir Hugo Drax ( also consuming a carafe of vintage Riga vodka and a vodka martini ) ; he also uses the drug for stimulation on missions , such as swimming across Shark Bay in Live and Let Die , or remaining awake and alert when threatened in the Dreamy Pines Motor Court in The Spy Who Loved Me .

= = = Attitudes = = =

According to academic Jeremy Black , Bond is written as a complex character , even though he was also often the voice of Fleming 's prejudices . The output of the prejudices , combined with the tales of Bond 's actions , led journalist Yuri Zhukov to write an article in 1965 for the Soviet daily newspaper Pravda , describing Bond 's values :

Black does not consider Bond to be the unthinking wild beast Zhukov writes about , however . From Russia , with Love sees Bond watching Kerim Bey shoot the Bulgarian killer Krilencu and Bond observing that he had never killed anyone in cold blood . In " The Living Daylights " Bond deliberately misses his target , realising the sniper he has been sent to kill is a beautiful female cello player . Bond settles this in his mind by thinking that " It wasn 't exactly murder . Pretty near it , though . " Goldfinger opens with Bond thinking through the experience of killing a Mexican assassin days earlier . He is philosophical about it :

In response to a reviewer 's criticism of Bond as villainous , Fleming said in a 1964 Playboy interview that he did not consider his character to be particularly evil or good : " I don 't think that he is necessarily a good guy or a bad guy . Who is ? He 's got his vices and very few perceptible virtues except patriotism and courage , which are probably not virtues anyway ... But I didn 't intend for him to be a particularly likeable person . " Fleming agreed with some critics ' characterisation of

Bond as an unthinking killer , but expressed that he was a product of his time : " James Bond is a healthy , violent , noncerebral man in his middle @-@ thirties , and a creature of his era . I wouldn 't say he 's particularly typical of our times , but he 's certainly of the times . "

Another general attitude and prejudice of Fleming 's that Bond gives voice to includes his approach to homosexuality . While Fleming had a number of gay friends , including Noël Coward and his editor , William Plomer , he said that his books were " written for warm @-@ blooded heterosexuals " . His attitude went further , with Bond opining that homosexuals were " a herd of unhappy sexual misfits ? barren and full of frustrations , the women wanting to dominate and the men to be nannied " , adding that " he was sorry for them , but he had no time for them . "

= = = Personal life = = =

Bond lives in a flat off the King 's Road in Chelsea . His flat is looked after by an elderly Scottish housekeeper named May . May 's name was taken from May Maxwell , the housekeeper of Fleming 's close friend , the American Ivar Bryce . In 1955 Bond earned around £ 2 @,@ 000 a year net ( equivalent to £ 47 @,@ 000 in 2015 ) although when on assignment he worked on an unlimited expense account . Much of Fleming 's own daily routine while working at The Sunday Times was woven into the Bond stories and he summarised it at the beginning of Moonraker :

Only once in the series does Fleming install a partner for Bond in his flat , with the arrival of Tiffany Case , following Bond 's mission to the US in Diamonds Are Forever . By the start of the following book , From Russia , With Love , Case had left to marry an American . Bond was married only once , in On Her Majesty 's Secret Service , to Teresa " Tracy " di Vincenzo , but their marriage ends tragically when she is killed on their wedding day by Ernst Stavro Blofeld .

In the penultimate novel of the series , You Only Live Twice , Bond suffers from amnesia and has a relationship with an Ama diving girl , Kissy Suzuki . As a result of the relationship Kissy becomes pregnant , although she does not reveal this to Bond before he leaves the island .

= = = Abilities = = =

From Casino Royale to From Russia , with Love Bond 's preferred weapon is a .25 ACP Beretta automatic pistol carried in a light @-@ weight chamois leather holster . However Fleming was contacted by a Bond enthusiast and gun expert , Geoffrey Boothroyd , who criticised Fleming 's choice of firearm for Bond and suggested a Walther PPK 7.65mm instead . Fleming used the suggestion in Dr. No , also taking advice that it should be used with the Berns @-@ Martin triple draw shoulder holster . By way of thanks , the Secret Service Armourer who gives Bond his gun was given the name Major Boothroyd , and is introduced by M as " the greatest small @-@ arms expert in the world " .

Kingsley Amis , in The James Bond Dossier , noted that although Bond is a very good shot and the best in the Secret Service , he is still beaten by the instructor , something that added realism to Bond 's character . Amis identified a number of skills where Bond is very good , but is still beatable by others . These included skiing , hand @-@ to @-@ hand combat , underwater swimming and golf . Driving was also an ability Amis identified where Bond was good , but others were better ; one of those who is a better driver than Bond is Sir Hugo Drax , who causes Bond to write off his battleship @-@ grey supercharged Bentley 4 ½ Litre . Bond subsequently drives a Mark II Continental Bentley , which he uses in the remaining books of the series , although he is issued an Aston Martin DB Mark III with a homing device during the course of Goldfinger .

= = Continuation Bond works = =

= = = John Gardner = = =

In 1981 writer John Gardner was approached by the Fleming estate and asked to write a

continuation novel for Bond . Although he initially almost turned the series down , Gardner subsequently wrote fourteen original novels and two novelizations of the films between Licence Renewed in 1981 and COLD in 1996 . With the influence of the American publishers , Putnam 's , the Gardner novels showed an increase in the number of Americanisms used in the book , such as a waiter wearing " pants " , rather than trousers , in The Man from Barbarossa . James Harker , writing in The Guardian , considered that the Gardner books were " dogged by silliness " , giving examples of Scorpius , where much of the action is set in Chippenham , and Win , Lose or Die , where " Bond gets chummy with an unconvincing Maggie Thatcher " . Ill health forced Gardner to retire from writing the Bond novels in 1996 .

Gardner stated that he wanted " to bring Mr Bond into the 1980s " , although he retained the ages of the characters as they were when Fleming had left them . Even though Gardner kept the ages the same , he made Bond grey at the temples as a nod to the passing of the years . Other 1980s effects also took place , with Bond smoking low @-@ tar cigarettes and becoming increasingly health conscious .

The return of Bond in 1981 saw media reports on the more politically correct Bond and his choice of car ? a Saab 900 Turbo ; Gardner later put him in a Bentley Mulsanne Turbo . Gardner also updated Bond 's firearm : under Gardner , Bond is initially issued with the Browning 9mm before changing to a Heckler & Koch VP70 and then a Heckler & Koch P7 . Bond is also revealed to have taken part in the 1982 Falklands War . Gardner updated Fleming 's characters and used contemporary political leaders in his novels ; he also used the high @-@ tech apparatus of Q Branch from the films , although Jeremy Black observed that Bond is more reliant on technology than his own individual abilities . Gardner 's series linked Bond to the Fleming novels rather than the film incarnations and referred to events covered in the Fleming stories .

= = = Raymond Benson = = =

Following the retirement of John Gardner , Raymond Benson took over as Bond author in 1996 ; as the first American author of Bond it was a controversial choice . Benson had previously written the non @-@ fiction The James Bond Bedside Companion , first published in 1984 . Benson 's first work was a short story , " Blast From the Past " , published in 1997 . By the time he moved on to other projects in 2002 , Benson had written six Bond novels , three novelizations and three short stories . His final Bond work was The Man with the Red Tattoo , published in 2002 .

Benson followed Gardner 's pattern of setting Bond in the contemporary timeframe of the 1990s and , according to Jeremy Black , had more echoes of Fleming 's style than John Gardner , he also changed Bond 's gun back to the Walther PPK , put him behind the wheel of a Jaguar XK8 and made him swear more . James Harker noted that " whilst Fleming 's Bond had been an Express reader ; Benson 's is positively red top . He 's the first to have group sex ... and the first to visit a prostitute " , whilst Black notes an increased level of crudity lacking in either Fleming or Gardner . In a 1998 interview Benson described his version of Bond as a more ruthless and darker character , stating that " Bond is not a nice guy . Bond is a killer ... He is an anti @-@ hero . "

= = = Others = = =

= = = = Kingsley Amis = = = =

In 1967 , four years after Fleming 's death , his literary executors , Glidrose Productions , approached Kingsley Amis and offered him £ 10 @,@ 000 ( £ 163 @,@ 689 in 2016 pounds ) to write the first continuation Bond novel . The result was Colonel Sun published in 1968 under the pen @-@ name Robert Markham . Journalist James Harker noted that although the book was not literary , it was stylish . Raymond Benson noted that Bond 's character and events from previous novels were all maintained in Colonel Sun , saying " he is the same darkly handsome man first introduced in Casino Royale " .

=== Sebastian Faulks ===

After Gardner and Benson had followed Amis , there was a gap of six years until Sebastian Faulks was commissioned by Ian Fleming Publications to write a new Bond novel , which was released on 28 May 2008 , the one hundredth anniversary of Ian Fleming 's birth . The book ? entitled Devil May Care ? was published in the UK by Penguin Books and by Doubleday in the US .

Faulks ignored the timeframe established by Gardner and Benson and instead reverted to that used by Fleming and Amis , basing his novel in the 1960s ; he also managed to use a number of the cultural touchstones of the sixties in the book . Faulks was true to Bond 's original character and background too , and provided " a Flemingesque hero " who drove a battleship grey 1967 T @-@ series Bentley .

=== Jeffery Deaver ===

On 26 May 2011 American writer Jeffery Deaver , commissioned by Ian Fleming Publications , released Carte Blanche . Deaver restarted the chronology of Bond , separate from the timelines of any of the previous authors , by stating he was born in 1980 ; the novel also saw Bond in a post @-@ 9 / 11 agency , independent of either MI5 or MI6 .

Whilst the chronology changed , Deaver included a number of elements from the Fleming novels , including Bond 's tastes for food and wine , his gadgets and " the rather preposterous names of some of the female characters . "

=== William Boyd ===

In 2013 the William Boyd @-@ written continuation novel Solo was released ; it ignored Deaver 's new timeframe and was set in 1969 .

=== Anthony Horowitz ===

In October 2014 it was announced that Anthony Horowitz was to write a further Bond book . The book is due to be set in the 1950s , and it contains material written , but previously unreleased , by Fleming .

== Young Bond ==

In 2005 author and comedian Charlie Higson released SilverFin , the first of five novels and one short story in the life of a young James Bond ; his final work was the short story " A Hard Man to Kill " , released as part of the non @-@ fiction work , Danger Society : The Young Bond Dossier , the companion book to the Young Bond series . Young Bond is set in the 1930s , which would fit the chronology with that of Fleming .

Higson stated that he was instructed by the Fleming estate to ignore all other interpretations of Bond , except the original Fleming version . As the background to Bond 's childhood , Higson used Bond 's obituary in You Only Live Twice as well as his own and Fleming 's childhoods . In forming the early Bond character , Higson created the origins of some of Bond 's character traits , including his love of cars and fine wine .

== Adaptations ==

Adaptations of Bond started early in Fleming 's writings , with CBS paying him USD1,000 ( USD8,812 in 2016 dollars ) to adapt his first novel , Casino Royale , into a one @-@ hour television adventure ; this was broadcast on 21 October 1954 . The Bond character , played by Barry Nelson , was changed to " Card Sense " Jimmy Bond , an American agent working for " Combined

Intelligence " .

In 1957 the Daily Express newspaper adapted Fleming 's stories into comic strip format . In order to help the artists , Fleming commissioned a sketch to show how he saw Bond ; illustrator John McLusky considered Fleming 's version too " outdated " and " pre @-@ war " and changed Bond to give him a more masculine look .

In 1962 Eon Productions , the company of Canadian Harry Saltzman and American Albert R. " Cubby " Broccoli released the first cinema adaptation of an Ian Fleming novel , Dr. No , featuring Sean Connery as 007 . Connery was the first of seven actors to play Bond on the cinema screen , six of whom appeared in the Eon series of films . As well as looking different , each of the actors has interpreted the role of Bond in a different way .