

= Felix Leiter =

Felix Leiter is a fictional character created by Ian Fleming in the James Bond series . The character is an operative for the CIA and Bond 's friend . After losing a leg and his hand to a shark attack , Leiter joined the Pinkerton Detective Agency . The name " Felix " comes from the middle name of Fleming 's friend Ivor Bryce , while the name " Leiter " was the surname of Fleming 's friend Marion Oates Leiter Charles , then wife of Thomas Leiter .

Leiter also appeared in novels by continuation authors , as well as ten films and one television programme , Casino Royale , where the character became a British agent , Clarence Leiter , played by Michael Pate . In the Eon Productions series of films , Leiter has been portrayed by Jack Lord , Cec Linder , Rik Van Nutter , Norman Burton , David Hedison , John Terry and Jeffrey Wright ; in the independent production Never Say Never Again , the part was played by Bernie Casey . Leiter has also appeared in the video game 007 Legends .

= = Novels = =

Felix Leiter , James Bond 's CIA ally and friend , played a part in six of the Fleming novels ; he is introduced in Casino Royale as being thin , tall , about thirty @-@ five years old and a former member of the U.S. Marine Corps who was working with the Joint Intelligence Staff of NATO . Fleming named the character after two of his American friends : " Felix " was Ivar Bryce 's middle name , whilst Tommy Leiter was a mutual friend . Academic Kerstin Jütting describes Leiter as " a cool and quiet no @-@ nonsense character who knows 007 's strengths and weaknesses well " . Physically , Fleming describes Leiter in Casino Royale : " a mop of straw @-@ coloured hair lent his face a boyish look which closer examination contradicted " .

Leiter is Bond 's saviour in Casino Royale , providing him with 32 million francs when Bond has been cleaned out by SMERSH paymaster Le Chiffre , calling it " Marshall Aid " . Media historian James Chapman notes that Bond 's relationship with Leiter represented the Special Relationship between Britain and America , although the American Leiter is in the subordinate position to the British Bond . Academic Jeremy Black agrees , although points out that the Bond and Leiter relationship suggested " a far smoother working of the Anglo @-@ American alliance than was in fact the case . " Academic and writer Kingsley Amis , in his exploration of Bond in The James Bond Dossier , considered that this view of Leiter was partly because of Fleming 's writing , noting that " Leiter , 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 " . Bond scholars Bennett and Woollacott note that although the two men share adventures , it is Bond who leads , not Leiter . Leiter 's role is to " suppl [ y ] Bond with technical support and hardware , add ... muscle where needed and money " .

Fleming 's second novel , Live and Let Die shows that in his early twenties , Leiter wrote a few pieces on Dixieland jazz for the New York Amsterdam News . Bond scholar John Griswold notes that in the original draft of the story , Fleming killed Leiter off in the shark attack ; when Naomi Burton , Fleming 's US agent with Curtis Brown , protested about the death of the character , Fleming relented and Leiter lived , albeit missing an arm and half a leg . Espionage scholar Rupert Allason , writing as Nigel West , noted that Leiter 's involvement in a domestic US matter was a breach of the CIA 's charter , as laid out in the National Security Act of 1947 .

After the shark attack , Leiter returned in Diamonds Are Forever with a hook for his missing hand and a prosthetic leg ; as he had lost his gun hand , he was no longer with the CIA , but employed as a private detective by Pinkerton Detective Agency , although he was on the reserve of the CIA and was recalled for Goldfinger , Thunderball and The Man with the Golden Gun . Fleming had flown to the US in August 1954 to research the background to Diamonds Are Forever ; his friend Ernest Cuneo introduced him to a rich socialite , William Woodward , Jr . , who drove a Studillac ? a Studebaker with a powerful Cadillac engine . According to Bond scholar Henry Chancellor , " the speed and comfort of it impressed Ian , and he shamelessly appropriated this car " for Leiter to drive in the novel .

For the post @-@ Fleming continuation Bond authors , Leiter has also appeared on a periodic basis . After John Gardner took over writing the James Bond novel series , Leiter made an occasional appearance and the novel For Special Services introduces his daughter , Cedar Leiter , who is also a CIA officer ( and briefly Bond 's romantic conquest ) . Raymond Benson also included Leiter 's character in some of his novels , including The Facts of Death and Doubleshot . Similarly the more recent continuation Bond novels ? the 2008 Sebastian Faulks novel Devil May Care and the 2011 novel Carte Blanche by Jeffery Deaver ? both contained the character .

= = Television = =

= = = Michael Pate : 1954 = = =

The first screen interpretation of the Leiter character was in the 1954 CBS one @-@ hour television adventure Casino Royale , broadcast as part of the dramatic anthology series Climax Mystery Theater , which ran between October 1954 and June 1958 . For the American audience the Bond character from Casino Royale was re @-@ cast as an American agent ? " Card Sense " Jimmy Bond , played by Barry Nelson ? described as working for " Combined Intelligence " , supported by the British agent , Clarence Leiter ; " thus was the Anglo @-@ American relationship depicted in the book reversed for American consumption " , according to Jeremy Black . Leiter , who was an agent for Station S , was a combination of the novel 's Felix Leiter and René Mathis and was played by the Australian actor Michael Pate .

= = Films = =

= = = Eon Productions films = = =

= = = = Jack Lord : 1962 = = = =

Jack Lord was the first Felix Leiter , appointed into the role for the first Bond film , Dr. No . Eon Productions started filming the series out of the order written by Fleming ( Fleming had started with Casino Royale , with Dr. No being the sixth novel ) . Leiter was not present in the Fleming novel , but the writers added the character to the film . Bond scholars Smith and Lavington consider Leiter to offer negligible help to Bond , largely because there is no role for him in the novel , a point with which continuation Bond author Raymond Benson agrees , noting that he is " extraneous to the dramatic action " . Jeremy Black agrees , although points out that the inclusion of Leiter was a sign of American influence in the Caribbean .

Lord played Leiter in a " swaggering " fashion , according to Smith and Lavington , and they considered him " excellent , an effective American version of James Bond . " Bond scholars Pfeiffer and Worrall agree , stating that Lord 's was " one of the most satisfying portrayals of Leiter " .

Featured in

Dr. No ( 1962 )

= = = = Cec Linder : 1964 = = = =

When the role of Leiter was brought back for the third Bond film , Goldfinger , in 1964 , Lord was again approached to play Leiter ; according to screenwriter Richard Maibaum , Lord demanded co @-@ star billing with Connery , a bigger role and more money to reprise the role . The producers instead decided to recast the role , initially with Austin Willis . At the last minute , Cec Linder switched roles with Willis , who played cards with Goldfinger . Linder was the only actor actually on location in Miami . Raymond Benson considers that Linder was " miscast " as Leiter because he

looked too old : " he looks like Bond 's uncle rather than his best friend . "

Featured in

Goldfinger ( 1964 )

===== Rik Van Nutter : 1965 =====

The fourth film in the Eon series , Thunderball , was the third to portray Leiter and the producers chose a third actor to play the role , Rik Van Nutter . Van Nutter was married to Swedish actress Anita Ekberg at the time and the couple had dined with Cubby and Dana Broccoli after Ekberg had appeared in the Eon @-@ produced Call Me Bwana . Van Nutter was subsequently offered the Leiter role without an audition , although he did have screen tests with some of the Bond girls .

According to Pfeiffer and Worrall , Leiter had a more proactive role in Thunderball and Van Nutter was " an inspired choice for the role " . Smith and Lavington agree and consider that Van Nutter 's " relaxed and charming performance works well . " Benson also concurs , but complains that although Van Nutter is a piece of successful casting , " the script ... does not give the character any real depth " .

Featured in

Thunderball ( 1965 )

===== Norman Burton : 1971 =====

For the 1971 instalment , Diamonds Are Forever , Eon chose Norman Burton . Burton 's Leiter was more amusing and more exasperated than the previous incarnations of the role .

Raymond Benson again considers that the Leiter role was miscast and considered Burton to be " overweight and too old for the role " . Smith and Lavington describe him as " an elderly , portly man in a government @-@ issue suit ... anonymous , orthodox " . Pfeiffer and Worrall agree , thinking that Burton was " the least likely incarnation " of Leiter .

Featured in

Diamonds Are Forever ( 1971 )

===== David Hedison : 1973 & 1989 =====

In 1973 the Bond franchise introduced a new main lead , Roger Moore , who played Bond for the next twelve years in seven films . To play the part of Leiter in Live and Let Die , an old friend of Moore 's was chosen , David Hedison . Pfeiffer and Worrall consider that this friendship comes through , with " genuine chemistry " between the two . Hedison played the role with an understated charm , although the script did not give Leiter much to do . Raymond Benson thought him miscast , but acknowledged that " he 's the best Leiter next to Rik Van Nutter . "

Hedison returned to play Leiter sixteen years later in Licence to Kill and after another actor had also been in the role . Hedison did not expect to return to the role , saying " I was sure that ... [ Live and Let Die ] would be my first ? and last " and Glen was reluctant to cast the 61 @-@ year @-@ old actor , since the role even had a scene parachuting . Hedison was the only actor to play Leiter twice until Jeffrey Wright appeared in both Casino Royale and Quantum of Solace .

Leiter is central to the plot of Licence to Kill . Now working with the DEA , Leiter and Bond work together to capture drug lord Franz Sanchez on the way to Leiter 's wedding , at which Bond serves as Best Man . A short time , Leiter and his wife Della are attacked by an escaped Sanchez , who kills Della and tortures Leiter by lowering him into a tank containing a great white shark . Bond finds Leiter maimed but alive , and seeks revenge on Sanchez , paving the way for the rest of the film 's plot . At the film 's end , Leiter is shown recovering in the hospital .

Featured in

Live and Let Die ( 1973 )

Licence to Kill ( 1989 )

===== John Terry : 1987 =====

Following Hedison 's first outing in 1973 in Live and Let Die , the Leiter role did not appear again until the 1987 film The Living Daylights , by which time Bond was being played by Timothy Dalton ; the role was taken up by John Terry .

Smith and Lavington consider that , although the scene between Bond and Leiter sees warmth in the relationship between them , " it is too fleeting to have any impact " . Pfeiffer and Worrall agree on the briefness of Leiter 's role in the film , although they consider that Terry has " virtually no chemistry with Dalton " .

Featured in

The Living Daylights ( 1987 )

===== Jeffrey Wright : 2006 & 2008 =====

Casino Royale rebooted the series , which allowed Leiter to re @-@ appear ; he and Bond meet for the first time in the film . He appeared again in Quantum of Solace ; early script drafts for Quantum of Solace gave Wright a larger role , but his screen time was restricted by on @-@ set rewrites . Leiter is mentioned in Spectre .

Featured in

Casino Royale ( 2006 )

Quantum of Solace ( 2008 )

===== Non @-@ Eon films =====

===== Bernie Casey : 1983 =====

In 1983 Kevin McClory , one of the original writers of the novel Thunderball , produced Never Say Never Again , a re @-@ make of the 1965 film Thunderball . McClory 's rights to the film were held separate to those of Eon Productions , although he had been one of the producers for the original Thunderball adaptation . The film marked the return of Sean Connery to the Bond role ; he spoke with Bernie Casey , saying that as the Leiter role was never remembered by audiences , using a black Leiter might make him more memorable . Smith and Lavington consider Casey to be " the most compelling Felix Leiter since Jack Lord " , although again there was little in the script for him to do .

Featured in

Never Say Never Again ( 1983 )

===== Video games =====

In the 2012 game 007 Legends , Canadian @-@ American actor Demetri Goritsas provided his likeness and voice for the character of Leiter .

===== Analysis =====

The New York Times has referred to Leiter as James Bond 's " sidekick " and documented that his evolving character has paralleled Bond 's fortunes as both a cinematic icon and a hero of the Cold War and its aftermath .