

= Licence to Kill =

Licence to Kill , released in 1989 , is the sixteenth entry in the James Bond film series by Eon Productions , and the first one not to use the title of an Ian Fleming story . It is the fifth and final consecutive Bond film to be directed by John Glen . It also marks Timothy Dalton 's second and final performance in the role of James Bond . The story has elements of two Ian Fleming short stories and a novel , interwoven with aspects from Japanese R?nin tales . The film sees Bond being suspended from MI6 as he pursues drugs lord Franz Sanchez , who has ordered an attack against his CIA friend Felix Leiter and a rape and murder on Felix 's wife during their honeymoon . Originally titled Licence Revoked in line with the plot , the name was changed during post @-@ production because too many people did not know what revoked meant .

Budgetary reasons caused Licence to Kill to be the first Bond film shot completely outside the United Kingdom , with locations in both Florida and Mexico . The film earned over \$ 156 million worldwide , and enjoyed a generally positive critical reception , with ample praise for the stunts , but attracted some criticism of Dalton 's dark and violent interpretation of Bond and the fact that the film was significantly darker and more violent than its predecessors .

After the release of Licence to Kill , legal wrangling over control of the series and the James Bond character resulted in a six @-@ year @-@ long delay in production of the next Bond film which resulted in Dalton deciding not to return . It is also the final Bond film for actors Robert Brown ( as M ) and Caroline Bliss ( as Money Penny ) , screenwriter Richard Maibaum , title designer Maurice Binder , editor John Grover , cinematographer Alec Mills , director and former Bond film editor John Glen , and producer Albert R. Broccoli , although he would later act as a consulting producer for GoldenEye before his death .

= = Plot = =

DEA agents collect MI6 agent James Bond and Felix Leiter , on their way to Leiter 's wedding in Key West , to have them assist in capturing drugs lord Franz Sanchez . Bond and Leiter capture Sanchez by attaching a hook and cord to Sanchez 's plane and pulling it out of the air with a Coast Guard helicopter . Afterwards , Bond and Leiter parachute down to the church in time for the ceremony .

Sanchez bribes DEA agent Ed Killifer and escapes . Meanwhile , Sanchez 's henchman Dario and his crew ambush Leiter and his wife Della and take Leiter to an aquarium owned by one of Sanchez 's accomplices , Milton Krest . Sanchez has Leiter lowered into a tank holding a great white . When Bond learns Sanchez has escaped , he returns to Leiter 's house to find Leiter has been maimed and that Della has been murdered ? and by implication raped . Bond , with Leiter 's friend Sharkey , start their own investigation . They discover a marine research centre run by Krest , where Sanchez has hidden cocaine and a submarine for smuggling .

After Bond kills Killifer , M meets Bond in Key West 's Hemingway House and orders him to an assignment in Istanbul , Turkey . Bond resigns after turning down the assignment , but M suspends Bond instead and revokes his licence to kill . Bond becomes a rogue agent , although he later receives unauthorised assistance from Q.

Bond boards Krest 's ship the Wavekrest and foils Sanchez 's latest drug shipment , stealing five million dollars in the process . He discovers that Sharkey had been killed by Sanchez 's henchmen . Bond rescues Pam Bouvier , an ex @-@ CIA agent and pilot , from Dario at a Bimini bar , and journeys with her to the Republic of Isthmus . He finds his way into Sanchez 's employment by posing as an assassin for hire . Two Hong Kong Narcotics Bureau officers foil Bond 's attempt to assassinate Sanchez and take him to an abandoned warehouse . They are joined by Fallon , an MI6 agent who was sent by M to apprehend Bond . Sanchez 's men rescue him and kill the officers , believing them to be the assassins . Later , with the aid of Bouvier , Q , and Sanchez 's girlfriend Lupe Lamora , Bond frames Krest by planting the \$ 5 million in the Wavekrest . Sanchez kills Krest and admits Bond into his inner circle .

Sanchez takes Bond to his base , which is disguised as headquarters of a religious cult . Bond

learns that Sanchez 's scientists can dissolve cocaine in petrol and then sell it disguised as fuel to Asian drug dealers . The televangelist Professor Joe Butcher serves as middleman , working under Sanchez 's business manager Truman @-@ Lodge . During Sanchez 's presentation to potential Asian customers , Dario discovers Bond and betrays him to Sanchez . Bond starts a fire in the laboratory , but is captured again and placed on the conveyor belt that drops the brick @-@ cocaine into a giant shredder . Bouvier arrives and shoots Dario , allowing Bond to pull Dario into the shredder , killing him .

Sanchez flees as fire consumes his base , taking with him four tankers full of the cocaine and petrol mixture . Bond pursues them by plane , with Bouvier at the controls . Bond destroys three of the tankers and kills several of Sanchez 's men . Sanchez attacks Bond with a machete aboard the final remaining tanker , which crashes down a hill side . A petrol @-@ soaked Sanchez attempts to kill Bond with his machete . Bond then reveals his cigarette lighter ? the Leiters ' gift for being the best man at their wedding ? and sets Sanchez on fire . Sanchez stumbles into the wrecked tanker , blowing it up and killing himself . Bouvier arrives and rescues Bond .

Later , a party is held at Sanchez 's former residence . Bond receives a call from Leiter telling him that M is offering him his job back . He then rejects Lupe 's advances and romances Bouvier instead .

= = Cast = =

Timothy Dalton as James Bond , an MI6 agent who resigns to take his revenge on drug lord Franz Sanchez

Carey Lowell as Pam Bouvier , an ex @-@ Army pilot and CIA informant

Robert Davi as Franz Sanchez , the most powerful drug lord in Latin America , mentioned as having been wanted by the DEA for years .

Talisa Soto as Lupe Lamora , Sanchez 's girlfriend who has romantic feelings for Bond

Anthony Zerbe as Milton Krest , Sanchez 's henchman who operates Wavekrest Marine Research , and whom Bond sets up to turn Sanchez against him

Frank McRae as Sharkey , a friend of Felix Leiter who owns a boat charter business

Everett McGill as Ed Killifer , a corrupt DEA official who frees Sanchez from custody

Wayne Newton as Professor Joe Butcher , Sanchez 's middleman and TV evangelist for Olimpatec Meditation Institute

Benicio del Toro as Dario , Sanchez 's personal henchman

Anthony Starke as Truman @-@ Lodge , Sanchez 's financial advisor

Pedro Armendáriz , Jr. as President Hector Lopez , the president of Isthmus

Desmond Llewelyn as Q , Bond 's ally who supplies Bond with various gadgets and helps him on the field

David Hedison as Felix Leiter , a former CIA agent now with DEA and a close friend of James Bond

Priscilla Barnes as Della Churchill , Felix Leiter 's bride

Robert Brown as M , the head of MI6 and Bond 's superior who revokes Bond 's double @-@ 0 licence

Caroline Bliss as Miss Money Penny , M 's personal secretary

Don Stroud as Colonel Heller , Sanchez 's head of security

Grand L. Bush as Hawkins , a DEA Agent who opposes Bond 's vendetta

Cary @-@ Hiroyuki Tagawa as Kwang , a Hong Kong Police Narcotics agent sent to infiltrate Sanchez 's heart of operations

Christopher Neame as Fallon , an MI6 agent sent by M to arrest Bond , dead or alive

Diana Lee Hsu as Loti , a female Hong Kong Narcotics agent working with Kwang

= = Production = =

Shortly after The Living Daylights was released , producer Albert R. Broccoli and writers Michael G.

Wilson and Richard Maibaum started discussing its successor . The film would retain a realistic style , as well as showing the " darker edge " of the Bond character . For the primary location , the producers wanted a place where the series had not yet visited . While China was visited after an invitation by its government , the idea fell through partly because the 1987 film *The Last Emperor* had removed some of the novelty from filming in China . By this stage the writers had already talked about a chase sequence along the Great Wall , as well as a fight scene amongst the Terracotta Army . Wilson also wrote two plot outlines about a drug lord in the Golden Triangle before the plans fell through . The writers eventually decided on a setting in a tropical country while Broccoli negotiated to film in Mexico , at the Estudios Churubusco in Mexico City . In 1985 , the Films Act was passed , removing the Eady Levy , resulting in foreign artists being taxed more heavily . The associated rising costs to Eon Productions meant no part of *Licence to Kill* was filmed in the UK , the first Bond film not to do so . Pinewood Studios , used in every previous Bond film , housed only the post @-@ production and sound re @-@ recording .

= = = Writing and themes = = =

The initial outline of what would become *Licence to Kill* was drawn up by Wilson and Maibaum . Before the pair could develop the script , the Writers Guild of America ( WGA ) went on strike and Maibaum was unable to continue writing , leaving Wilson to work on the script on his own . Although both the main plot and title of *Licence to Kill* owe nothing to any of the Fleming novels , there are elements from the books that are used in the storyline , including a number of aspects of the short story " *The Hildebrand Rarity* " , such as the character Milton Krest . The novel *Live and Let Die* provided the material surrounding Felix Leiter 's mauling by a shark , whilst the film version of the book provided the close similarity between the main villain , Kananga , and *Licence to Kill* 's main villain Sanchez . The screenplay was not ready by the time casting had begun , with Carey Lowell being auditioned with lines from *A View to a Kill* .

The script ? initially called *Licence Revoked* ? was written with Dalton 's characterisation of Bond in mind , and the obsession with which Bond pursues Sanchez on behalf of Leiter and his dead wife is seen as being because " of his own brutally cut @-@ short marriage . " Dalton 's darker portrayal of Bond led to the violence being increased and more graphic . Wilson compared the script to Akira Kurosawa 's *Yojimbo* , where a samurai " without any attacking of the villain or its cohorts , only sowing the seeds of distrust , he manages to have the villain bring himself down " . Wilson freely admitted that the idea of the destruction @-@ from @-@ within aspect of the plot came more from the cinema versions of the Japanese R?nin tales by Kurosawa or Sergio Leone than from Fleming 's use of that plot device from *The Man with the Golden Gun* . For the location Wilson created the Republic of Isthmus , a banana republic based on Panama , with the pock @-@ marked Sanchez bearing similarities to General Manuel Noriega . The parallels between the two figures were based on Noriega 's political use of drug trafficking and money laundering to provide revenues for Panama . Robert Davi suggested the line " loyalty is more important than money " , which he felt was fitting to the character of Franz Sanchez , whose actions were noticed by Davi to be concerned with betrayal and retaliation .

The United Artists press kits referred to the film 's background as being " Torn straight from the headlines of today 's newspapers " and the backdrop of Panama was connected to " the Medellín Cartel in Colombia and corruption of government officials in Mexico thrown in for good measure . " This use of the cocaine @-@ smuggling backdrop put *Licence to Kill* alongside other cinema blockbusters , such as the 1987 films *Lethal Weapon* , *Beverly Hills Cop II* and *RoboCop* , and Bond was seen to be " poaching on their turf " with the drug @-@ related revenge story .

= = = Casting = = =

After Carey Lowell was chosen to play Pam Bouvier , she watched many of the films in the series for inspiration . Lowell had described becoming a Bond girl as " huge shoes to fill " , as she did not see herself as a " glamour girl " , even coming to audition in jeans and a leather jacket . While Lowell

wore a wig for the scenes set in the United States , a scene where Bouvier is given money and told by Bond to go and buy some new clothes ( and , going off and doing so , also has her hair cut ) was added so that Lowell 's own short hair style could be used .

Robert Davi was cast following a suggestion by Broccoli 's daughter Tina , and screenwriter Richard Maibaum , who had seen Davi in the television film *Terrorist on Trial : The United States vs. Salim Ajami* . To portray Sanchez , Davi researched on the Colombian drug cartels and how to do a Colombian accent , and since he was method acting , he would stay in character off @-@ set . After Davi read *Casino Royale* for preparation , he decided to turn Sanchez into a " mirror image " of James Bond , based on Ian Fleming 's descriptions of Le Chiffre . The actor also learned scuba diving for the scene where Sanchez is rescued from the sunken armoured car .

Davi later helped out on the casting of Sanchez 's mistress Lupe Lamora , by playing Bond in the audition , with Talisa Soto being picked from twelve candidates because Davi expressed he " would kill for her " . David Hedison returned to play Felix Leiter , sixteen years after being the agent in *Live and Let Die* . 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* .

Up @-@ and @-@ coming actor Benicio del Toro was chosen to play Sanchez 's henchman , Dario for being " laid back while menacing in a quirky sort of way " , according to Glen . Wayne Newton got the role of Professor Joe Butcher after sending a letter to the producers expressing interest in a cameo because he always wanted to be in a Bond film . The President of Isthmus was played by Pedro Armendáriz , Jr . , the son of Pedro Armendáriz , who played Ali Kerim Bey in *From Russia with Love* .

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography ran from 18 July to 18 November 1988 . Shooting began in Mexico , which mostly doubled for the fictional Republic of Isthmus : locations in Mexico City included the Biblioteca del Banco de Mexico for the exterior of El Presidente Hotel and the Casino Español for the interior of Casino de Isthmus whilst the Teatro de la Ciudad was used for its exterior . Villa Arabesque in Acapulco was used for Sanchez 's lavish villa , and the La Rumorosa Mountain Pass in Tecate was used as the filming site for the tanker chase during the climax of the film . Sanchez 's Olympiatec Meditation Institute was shot at the Otomi Ceremonial Center in Temoaya . Other underwater sequences were shot at the Isla Mujeres near Cancún .

In August 1988 , production moved to the Florida Keys , notably Key West . Seven Mile Bridge towards Pigeon Key was used for the sequence in which the armoured truck transporting Sanchez , following his arrest , is driven off the edge . Other locations there included Ernest Hemingway House , Key West International Airport , Mallory Square , St. Mary 's Star of the Sea Church for Leiter 's wedding and Stephano 's House 707 South Street for his house and patio . The US Coast Guard Pier was used to film Isthmus City harbour . As production moved back to Mexico , Broccoli became ill , leading to Michael G. Wilson becoming co @-@ producer , a position he subsequently retained .

The scene where Sanchez 's plane is hijacked was filmed on location in Florida , with stuntman Jake Lombard jumping from a helicopter to a plane and Dalton himself being filmed atop the aircraft . The plane towed by the helicopter was a life @-@ sized model created by special effects supervisor John Richardson . After filming wide shots of David Hedison and Dalton parachuting , closer shots were made near the church location . During one of the takes , a malfunction of the harness equipment caused Hedison to fall on the pavement . The injury made him limp for the remainder of filming . The aquatic battle between Bond and the henchmen required two separate units , a surface one led by Arthur Wooster which used Dalton himself , and an underwater one which involved experienced divers . The barefoot waterskiing was done by world champion Dave Reinhart , with some close @-@ ups using Dalton on a special rig . Milton Krest 's death used a prosthetic head which was created by John Richardson 's team based on a mould of Anthony Zerbe 's face . The result was so gruesome that it was shortened and toned down to avoid censorship

problems .

For the climactic tanker chase , the producers used an entire section of a highway near Mexicali , which had been closed for safety reasons . Sixteen eighteen @-@ wheeler tankers were used , some with modifications made by manufacturer Kenworth at the request of driving stunts arranger Rémy Julienne . Most were given improvements to their engines to run faster , while one model had an extra steering wheel on the back of the cabin so a hidden stuntman could drive while Carey Lowell was in the front and another received extra suspension on its back so it could lift its front wheels . Although a rig was constructed to help a rig tilt onto its side , it was not necessary as Julienne was able to pull off the stunt without the aid of camera trickery .

= = = Music = = =

Initially Vic Flick , who had played lead guitar on Monty Norman 's original 007 theme , and Eric Clapton were asked to write and perform the theme song to Licence to Kill and they produced a theme to match Dalton 's gritty performance , but the producers turned it down and instead Gladys Knight 's song and performance was chosen . The song ( one of the longest to ever be used in a Bond film ) was based on the " horn line " from Goldfinger , seen as an homage to the film of the same name , which required royalty payments to the original writers . The song gave Knight her first British top @-@ ten hit since 1977 . The end credits feature the Top 10 R & B hit " If You Asked Me To " , sung by Patti LaBelle .

John Barry was not available at the time due to throat surgery , so the soundtrack 's score was composed and conducted by Michael Kamen , who was known for scoring many action films at the time , such as Lethal Weapon and Die Hard . Glen said he picked Kamen , feeling he could give " the closest thing to John Barry . "

= = Release and reception = =

Film ratings organisations had objections to the excessive and realistic violence , with both the Motion Picture Association of America and the British Board of Film Classification requesting content adaptations , with the BBFC in particular demanding the cut of 36 seconds of film . The 2006 Ultimate Edition DVD of Licence to Kill marked the first release of the film without cuts .

Licence to Kill premiered at the Odeon Leicester Square in London on 13 June 1989 , raising £ 200 @, @ 000 ( £ 448 @, @ 735 in 2016 pounds ) for The Prince 's Trust on the night . The film grossed a total of £ 7 @. @ 5 million ( £ 17 million in 2016 pounds ) in the United Kingdom , making it the seventh most successful film of the year , despite the 15 certificate which cut down audience numbers . Worldwide numbers were also positive , with \$ 156 million , making it the twelfth biggest box @-@ office draw of the year . The US cinema returns were \$ 34 @. @ 6 million , making Licence to Kill the least financially successful James Bond film in the US , when accounting for inflation . A factor suggested for the poor takings were fierce competition at the cinema , with Licence to Kill released alongside Lethal Weapon 2 ; Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade ( starring former Bond , Sean Connery ) and Batman .

There were also issues with the promotion of the film : promotional material in the form of teaser posters created by Bob Peak , based on the Licence Revoked title and commissioned by Albert Broccoli , had been produced , but MGM decided against using them after American test screenings showed ' Licence Revoked ' to be a common American phrase for the withdrawal of a driving licence . The delayed , corrected advertising by Steven Chorney , in the traditional style , limited the film 's pre @-@ release screenings . MGM also discarded a campaign created by advertising executive Don Smolen ? who had worked in the publicity campaign for eight Bond films before ? emphasising the rougher content of the movie .

= = = Contemporary reviews = = =

Derek Malcolm in The Guardian was broadly approving of Licence to Kill , liking the " harder edge

of the earlier Bonds " that the film emulated , but wishing that " it was written and directed with a bit more flair . " Malcolm praised the way the film attempted " to tell a story rather than use one for the decorative purposes of endless spectacular tropes . " Writing in The Guardian 's sister paper , The Observer , Philip French noted that " despite the playful sparkle in his eyes , Timothy Dalton 's Bond is ... serious here . " Overall French called Licence to Kill " an entertaining , untaxing film " . Ian Christie in the Daily Express excoriated the film , saying that the plot was " absurd but fundamentally dull " , a further problem being that as " there isn 't a coherent storyline to link [ the stunts ] , they eventually become tiresome . "

Hilary Mantel in The Spectator dismissed the film . " It is a very noisy film . There is a weary and repetitive note to the frenzy . The sex is low key and off @-@ screen but there is a smirking perverse undertow which makes the film more disagreeable than a slasher movie . "

David Robinson , writing in The Times observed that Licence to Kill " will probably neither disappoint nor surprise the great , faithful audience " , but bemoaned the fact that " over the years the plots have become less ambitious " . Robinson thought that Dalton 's Bond " has more class " than the previous Bonds and was " a warmer personality " . Iain Johnstone of The Sunday Times pointed out that " any vestiges of the gentleman spy ... by Ian Fleming " have now gone , and in its place is a Bond that is " remarkably close both in deed and action to the eponymous hero of the Batman film " that was released at the same time as Licence to Kill .

Adam Mars @-@ Jones of The Independent gave the film a mixed review , pointing out that it took out some of the more dated ideas from the Fleming novels , such as imperialism ; he wrote that the writers were " trying in effect to reproduce the recipe while leaving out ingredients that would now seem distasteful " . Overall Mars @-@ Jones thought that " James Bond is more like a low @-@ tar cigarette than anything else ? less stimulating than the throat @-@ curdling gaspers of yesteryear , but still naggingly implicated in unhealthiness , a feeble bad habit without the kick of a vice . "

For the Canadian newspaper The Globe and Mail , Rick Groen wrote that in Licence to Kill " they 've excised Bond from the Bond flicks ; they 've turned James into Jimmy , strong and silent and ( roll over , Britannia ) downright American " , resulting in a Bond film that is " essentially Bond @-@ less " . Summing up , Groen thought " Actually , that dialogue ... ain 't bad . The silence looks good on Timothy Dalton " .

Gary Arnold of The Washington Times wrote that a number of factors " fail to prevent the finished product from jamming and misfiring with disillusioning frequency " . Arnold opined that " demanding that he [ Dalton ] play Bond 's wrathfulness in a transparently seething and hotheaded manner " means that Dalton " seems to waste away on this second outing as Bond . " Overall Arnold sees that there is a " failure to recognize that Bond productions are simply too extravagant to permit an uncompromised return to first principles . " The critic for The New York Times , Caryn James , thought Dalton was " the first James Bond with angst , a moody spy for the fin de siecle " , and that Licence to Kill " retains its familiar , effective mix of despicably powerful villains , suspiciously tantalizing women and ever @-@ wilder special effects " , but was impressed that " Dalton 's glowering presence adds a darker tone " . James concluded that " for all its clever updatings , stylish action and witty escapism , Licence to Kill ... is still a little too much by the book . "

Roger Ebert for the Chicago Sun @-@ Times gave the film 3 ½ stars out of 4 , saying " the stunts all look convincing , and the effect of the closing sequence is exhilarating ... Licence to Kill is one of the best of the recent Bonds . " Jack Kroll , writing in Newsweek described Licence to Kill as " a pure , rousingly entertaining action movie " . Kroll was mixed in his appraisal of Dalton , calling him " a fine actor who hasn 't yet stamped Bond with his own personality " , observing " Director John Glen is the Busby Berkeley of action flicks , and his chorus line is the legendary team of Bond stunt @-@ persons who are at their death @-@ defying best here " . For Time magazine , Richard Corliss bemoaned that although the truck stunts were good , it was " a pity nobody ? not writers Michael G. Wilson , and Richard Maibaum nor director John Glen ? thought to give the humans anything very clever to do . " Corliss found Dalton " misused " in the film , adding that " for every plausible reason , he looks as bored in his second Bond film as Sean Connery did in his sixth . "

= = = Reflective reviews = = =

Opinion on Licence to Kill has not changed with the passing of time and the reviews are still mixed : though film review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes lists the film with a positive 77 % " fresh " rating from 52 reviews . Tom Hibbert of Empire gives the film only two of a possible five stars , observing that " Dalton ... is really quite hopeless " . Hibbert concluded that " he may look the part , but Timothy Dalton fails the boots , the scuba gear , or the automobiles left him by Moore and Connery . " In 2006 , IGN ranked Licence to Kill fifteenth out of the then 21 Bond films , claiming it is " too grim and had strayed too far from the Bond formula . " That same year , Benjamin Svetkey and Joshua Rich of Entertainment Weekly ranked the film as second worst in the series , questioning Wayne Newton 's cameo , and considering that " not even Benicio Del Toro in an early role as a henchman is enough to pep up the action . " The magazine also listed Pam Bouvier seventh on their list of worst Bond girls , saying Carey Lowell " fumbled this attempt at giving 007 a modern , independent counterpart by turning her into a nagging pest . "

Norman Wilner of MSN considered Licence to Kill the second worst Bond film , above only A View to a Kill , but defended Dalton , saying he " got a raw deal . The actor who could have been the definitive 007 ... had the bad luck to inherit the role just as the series was at its weakest , struggling to cope with its general creative decline and the end of the Cold War " . In October 2008 Time Out re @-@ issued a review of Licence to Kill and also thought that Dalton was unfortunate , saying " one has to feel for Dalton , who was never given a fair shake by either of the films in which he appeared " . On a more positive note , Chuck O 'Leary of Fantastica Daily remarked that it was a rare entry in the Bond series where the danger seems real .

Some critics , such as James Berardinelli , saw a fundamental weakness in the film : the " overemphasis on story may be a mistake , because there are times when Licence to Kill 's narrative bogs down . " Berardinelli gave the film three out of a possible four stars , adding " Licence to Kill may be taut and gripping , but it 's not traditional Bond , and that , as much as any other reason , may explain the public 's rejection of this reasonably well @-@ constructed picture . " Raymond Benson , the author of nine Bond novels , said of the film : " It boggles my mind that Licence to Kill is so controversial . There 's really more of a true Ian Fleming story in that script than in most of the post @-@ 60s Bond movies . " John Glen has said Licence to Kill " is among my best Bond films , if not the best " .

= = Appearances in other media = =

The Licence to Kill screenplay was written into a novel by the then @-@ novelist of the Bond series John Gardner . It was the first of those novels since Moonraker in 1979 .

Licence to Kill was also adapted as a forty @-@ four page , colour graphic novel , by writer and artist Mike Grell ( also author of original @-@ story Bond comic books ) , published by Eclipse Comics and ACME Press in hardcover and trade editions in 1989 . The adaptation closely follows the film story , although the ending is briefer , and James Bond is not drawn to resemble Timothy Dalton after Dalton refused to allow his likeness to be licensed . Domark also published a video game adaptation , 007 : Licence to Kill , to various personal computers .

= = Awards and nominations = =

1990 Edgar Allan Poe Award - Best Motion Picture - nomination for Michael G. Wilson and Richard Maibaum

1989 MPSE Golden Reel - Outstanding Sound Mixing - nomination for Graham Hartstone