

= Devil May Care (Faulks novel) =

Devil May Care is a James Bond continuation novel written by Sebastian Faulks . It was published in the UK by Penguin Books on 28 May 2008 , the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ian Fleming , the creator of Bond . The story centres on Bond 's investigation into Dr Julius Gorner , a megalomaniac chemist with a deep @-@ seated hatred of England .

Faulks wrote the book in the style of Fleming , and the novel carried the credit " Sebastian Faulks writing as Ian Fleming " ; he also took the same timeframe as Fleming , setting the novel in 1967 , following the events in Fleming 's last novel The Man with the Golden Gun . He ignored the influences of the other Bond continuation authors and the films , producing a characterisation of Bond in the style of Fleming 's .

The novel was broadly well received by critics and went into the best @-@ seller lists by the end of the first week of sales , selling 44 @,@ 093 copies in four days to become the fastest @-@ selling fiction book after the Harry Potter titles . Faulks stated that although he enjoyed writing the book , he would write no more Bond novels .

= = Plot = =

The story is set in the 1960s . Bond is instructed by his superior , M , to investigate a man named Dr Julius Gorner , and his bodyguard , Chagrin . Bond is warned that his performance will be monitored and that a new 00 agent is waiting in the wings if his actions go awry .

Bond flies to Imperial Iran (Persia) to investigate . Gorner owns factories and produces legitimate pharmaceuticals , however MI6 suspects he has other motives . During Bond 's investigation he identifies Gorner due to a deformity of his hand , and establishes Gorner 's complicity in a scheme to not only flood Europe with cheap drugs but also to launch a two @-@ pronged terrorist attack on the Soviet Union , whose retaliation will subsequently devastate the UK . The attack is to be made using a stolen British airliner , earlier hijacked over Iraqi airspace , and an ekranoplan . Bond is assisted in his investigation by Scarlett Papava (whose twin sister Poppy is under Gorner 's emotional spell) , Darius Alizadeh (the local head of station) , JD Silver (an in @-@ situ agent) , and Felix Leiter .

Bond is eventually captured by Gorner in the heroin plant , who explains that Bond is to be used as bait during a drugs delivery across the Afghan desert , and should he survive an expected ambush , is to fly the captured airliner into the Russian heartland . Bond would be identified as British upon its destruction , increasing the evidence against the British Government . Bond survives the predicted Afghan attack and plots an escape attempt , which sees Scarlett get away due to Bond surrendering himself as a diversion . In the morning he is taken aboard the aeroplane . Before the airliner can bomb the Soviets , with the aid of the airliner 's pilot and Scarlett (who had been hiding on board) , Bond regains control of the aeroplane and crashes it into a mountainside after parachuting to safety .

Meanwhile , Felix Leiter and Darius inform agent Silver of the second method of attack . Silver shows himself to be a double agent by failing to call in an airstrike against the Ekranoplan and by attempting to kill Leiter and Darius . In the shoot @-@ out Darius successfully calls in the airstrike at the cost of his own life and Leiter survives only thanks to the timely arrival of Hamid , his taxi driver . The Ekranoplan is destroyed by RAF Vulcan bombers before it reaches its target . Bond and Scarlett escape through Russia but are pursued by Chagrin , who Bond finally kills on a train . Later Gorner meets him on a boat and tries to shoot him , but Bond pushes him off , where he is torn to pieces by a propeller . With the subsequent elimination of both Chagrin and Gorner , Bond considers his mission a success , and on condition that the agent M has waiting in the wings will not take his place Bond is sent to assess the new agent , designated 004 . She turns out to be Scarlett Papava . Scarlett discloses that the story of her twin sister was a ploy to convince Bond to enable her to join the mission . Papava feared that if Bond knew she was a potential 00 agent , he would not have worked with her . With Bond returning to active duty , Scarlett moves off to her own operations as a full 00 agent .

= = Characters and themes = =

The central character of the novel is James Bond , the fictional MI6 agent created by Ian Fleming . Faulks modelled his version of the character on Fleming 's version , ignoring the other continuation authors and the films ; when interviewed , Faulks said that " My Bond is Fleming 's Bond ? not Connery , or Moore or Craig , for all their charms " , going on to say that " my Bond drinks and smokes as much as ever " . Faulks saw Bond as a man in constant peril : " This Bond , this solitary hero with his soft shoes and single under @-@ powered weapon , was a man in dreadful danger . You feared for him . " On another occasion he returned to the theme , describing the character as " a very vulnerable man , with his nice suit and soft shoes and ludicrously underpowered gun . He finds himself in terrible situations , and he 's all on his own ? you just worry for his safety . "

With the novel following the fictional timeframe of *The Man with the Golden Gun* , Bond is still in a state of decline following the death of his wife , and has been forced to take a sabbatical on medical grounds . His mind and body were feeling the effects of his previous missions and lifestyle and he was considering M 's offer of a desk job ; before he can make the decision , M sends him out on another mission .

For the main female character in the book , Faulks created Scarlett Papava , a fellow MI6 agent who is promoted to the 00 section at the end of the novel . Academic Tony Garland draws a similarity between Papava and the John Gardner character Fredericka von Grusse , as they both create " a tension between mission and desire . " Faulks himself considered that : " My female lead ? the ' Bond girl ' ? has a little more depth than Fleming 's women , but not at the expense of glamour " , although Christopher Hitchens complained that " there is almost no sex until the very last pages . "

The primary antagonist of the novel is Dr Julius Gorner , a chemist with main de singe , monkey 's paw : a left hand resembling that of a monkey , covered with hair and without an opposed thumb . Writer Ian Thomson sees Gorner as being " a villain to rival the half @-@ Chinese Dr Julius No " , describing him as " a megalomaniac in the cruel lineage of Tamburlaine " . When mocked as a student at Oxford because of his hand , he became obsessed with destroying England . Gorner was Lithuanian by birth , which was a nod by Faulks to Auric Goldfinger 's Baltic background , whilst his cheating in a game of tennis against Bond was " a deliberate twin to golf with Auric Goldfinger ; there is even a sinister Asian manservant ? Chagrin , nodding across literary time to Oddjob ? who helps his boss to cheat . " Academic Marc DiPaolo also noted a similarity between Gorner 's plans to take over the media and destroy British culture from within and the actions of Rupert Murdoch .

The main theme of the novel is drugs , which Faulks said came partly from the timeframe of the novel and partly from Fleming not using it as a major theme : " 1967 , the summer of love ... Drugs were first coming to public notice . The Stones were busted , and there was that famous leader in *The Times* . And , you know , what are we talking about now all the time ? Drugs . It 's still very resonant . And there 's little about drug @-@ dealing in Fleming . It 's not something he did in any depth . " Faulks also wanted to broaden the aspect of the story compared to Fleming : " The book is set during the Cold War and I wanted it to not just be a crime story but to also have a political background . I was also determined that although the book is set in 1967 , I wanted the issues that it touches on to still be alive to us today " .

= = Background = =

During May 2006 Sebastian Faulks was approached by Ian Fleming Publications and asked to write a Bond book for Ian Fleming 's centenary . Although he initially refused , he was persuaded after he re @-@ read Fleming 's novels and the company gave him an article by Fleming in 1962 ? *How to Write a Thriller* ? which revealed that he wrote each Bond book in only six weeks . Faulks copied elements of Fleming 's routine , joking that " In his house in Jamaica , Ian Fleming used to write 1000 words in the morning , then go snorkelling , have a cocktail , lunch on the terrace , more diving , another 1000 words in the late afternoon , then more martinis and glamorous women . In my house in London , I followed this routine exactly , apart from the cocktails , the lunch and the snorkelling . "

The novel carried the unusual credit of " Sebastian Faulks writing as Ian Fleming " and Faulks described how ? using Fleming 's article ? he had employed the same style as Fleming did in his novels : " it 's standard journalistic : no semicolons , few adverbs , few adjectives , short sentences , a lot of verbs , a lot of concrete nouns . These are the tools , and that 's literally the style . " Faulks also commented that " some people find it perplexing but I think the way that the book has been presented ... is a clever way of showing that it is not my book , although , of course , it is my book . " A large part of Devil May Care is set in Persia (now Iran) ; it was an area Fleming had not previously dealt with in his Bond novels , describing it as " full of thieves and crooks " . Faulks said of his choice of location that Fleming " didn 't set any of his books there , which is surprising in some ways because Lebanon in the 60s would have made a great setting for a Bond story . But his loss is my gain . " .

Faulks was known for his previous best @-@ selling works Charlotte Gray , Birdsong and On Green Dolphin Street . He was the fifth author to produce an original Bond novel for Ian Fleming Publications (formerly Glidrose) , after Fleming himself . Kingsley Amis (writing as " Robert Markham ") produced Colonel Sun , John Gardner wrote fourteen original novels and two novelizations , and Raymond Benson produced six original novels and three novelizations . Additionally , Christopher Wood had produced two novelizations of the Eon films , while Charlie Higson and Samantha Weinberg (as " Kate Westbrook ") had also published Bond @-@ related novels .

Faulks stated that Devil May Care would be his only Bond book , saying : " One tribute , one centenary , one book " , adding " My contract did offer me a second go , but definitely not ... ' Once funny , twice silly , three times a slap ' , as the nanny saying goes . But I think it would be a good gig for someone to do . " He saw his novel as a continuation of the Fleming books , saying " I tried to put the films out of mind " , adding that " I prepared in a rather pedantic way by reading all of the books in chronological order and when I got to the end I wrote mine . "

= = Release and reception = =

Devil May Care was published in the UK on Wednesday , 28 May 2008 , to mark the centenary of Ian Fleming 's birth . The hardcover published by Penguin Books was 295 pages long and cost £ 18 @. @ 99 . It was released through Doubleday in the United States . 400 @, @ 000 hardcover copies were printed for the launch for the UK and US markets . The jacket artwork featured the model Tuuli Shipster , muse of the British photographer , Rankin . Shipster said : " I was thrilled that Penguin chose me to be their Bond girl . It ? s fantastic to be involved with something so iconic . " The cover picture was taken by British photographer and commercials director , Kevin Summers . The jacket was created by the design agency The Partners .

In the UK , Devil May Care went to the top of the best @-@ seller lists by the end of the first week 's sales , having sold 44 @, @ 093 copies in four days ; this made it the fastest @-@ selling fiction book after the Harry Potter titles . Waterstones reported selling 19 @, @ 000 in the first four days of sales . The book was released in paperback version in the UK on 28 May 2009 .

On 27 May 2008 , the day before Devil May Care was launched , the press party to publicise the launch of the book included Tuuli Shipster bringing copies up the Thames on a speedboat for a party on HMS Exeter , while two Lynx helicopters circled the ship . The ship , together with its 205 @-@ strong crew , had been loaned by the Royal Navy for the occasion .

= = = Reviews = = =

Writing in The Times , Peter Millar thought that " This is vintage Bond , in a very real sense " ; he went on to observe that the central figure was " Bond as Fleming abandoned him , shortly before his own death " . Millar summarised his critique by saying that the novel was a " ripping yarn , but don 't take it seriously " . Sam Leith , reviewing the novel for The Daily Telegraph thought that Faulks managed to avoid pastiche in his writing of the book , but had some fun , with " crass stuff ... being played , of course , for laughs " . Leith noted that aside from the more camp elements to the book ?

of which he approved ? " when [Faulks] throttles down and lets the Bond schtick do its own work he soon hits a comfortable cruising speed . Plot Bristol fashion : violent pre @-@ credit sequence ; flirtatious exchange with Money Penny ; apprehension mid @-@ snoop ; transportation to secret base ; villain confessing plans ; thwarting of plans ; coitus . "

Reviewing the novel for The Guardian , Mark Lawson wrote that Faulks had made a good job of imitating Fleming , as the plot " persistently picks up whispers from the books Fleming left behind " , and using a style and turn of phrase that " read as if they were directly borrowed from Fleming . " The main difference Lawson identified between Fleming and Faulks was that Faulks " misses the chilling indifference of tone which Bond 's creator brought to both kissing and killing " . Overall , Lawson considered that Devil May Care " is a smart and enjoyable act of literary resurrection . Among the now 33 post @-@ Fleming Bonds , this must surely compete only with Kingsley Amis 's for the title of the best . " Nicola Barr , writing for The Guardian 's Saturday edition , was broadly supportive of Faulks , commenting that " No one expects or wants subtlety from Bond , and Faulks delivers a thriller that manages to feel reassuringly familiar rather than predictable . "

Euan Ferguson , writing in The Guardian 's sister paper , The Observer , stated that " It 's good . Which is to say it 's better than it could have been . It is not , however , that good . " He noted that Faulks " evokes scenes with deft skill : recreates a time and a world with great brio , and manages it with the block script of Fleming 's journalistic nature rather than his own more cursive style . " Ferguson remained unsatisfied by the book , although he absolves the author of the blame , saying " the problem isn 't Faulks , it 's Bond . With Fleming 's untimely death , the link was broken " . Ferguson is pessimistic about Bond 's future and predicted that " Bond 's tux now flaps in the wind and despite Faulks having made such a well @-@ finessed fist of this , it is , I suspect , a last hurrah for 007 , destined to die on the page , if not the screen " .

The critic for the London Evening Standard observed that " for once , the claim on the cover , Sebastian Faulks writing as Ian Fleming is more than just publishers effrontery , it 's a genuine strategy " . The critic went on to note that Faulks had " not attempted to modernise Bond one whit " and that he had " delivered in convincing fashion too , in plain prose . " Writing in the Financial Times , Christopher Hitchens complained that although Faulks claimed to be writing ' as Fleming ' , it fell short of doing so : " This pot @-@ boiler takes several times as long as most Bond classics . There is almost no sex until the very last pages . There is almost no torture ? an absolute staple of a Bond narrative ? until the very last pages . " Hitchens admitted that Faulks had referred to elements of Fleming 's novels , so that " those who have a canonical attitude to Fleming will be able to collect their share of in @-@ jokes and cross @-@ references " ; similarly , " wispy fragments of Vesper Lynd and Honey Ryder drift in and out of shot and memory in much the same way " . Hitchens concluded his review of the novel by considering that Bond had been " cheapened " in the novel .

Janet Maslin , reviewing Devil May Care for the International Herald Tribune , remarked that Faulks did not " tinker with the series ' surefire recipe for success " , which resulted in " a serviceable madeleine for Bond nostalgists and a decent replica of past Bond escapades " . Patrick Anderson , writing in The Washington Post , admitted that he " was never a great fan of the Bond books " and considered that " Devil May Care has its amusing and entertaining moments , but there were other moments when I thought it would never end " .

The New York Times critic , Charles McGrath , felt that Faulks " improbably injects new life into the formula " , which meant that Devil May Care was " a stronger novel than any that Fleming wrote " . Fritz Lanham , writing for the Houston Chronicle declared that " so satisfying was Sebastian Faulks ' new James Bond novel that I felt obliged to celebrate by making myself a vodka martini , very dry , shaken , not stirred . " Lanham considered that Faulks had " produced a book true to the spirit of the originals " , whilst also producing a novel that " works as a thriller " .