

Diamonds Are Forever Study Guide

Diamonds Are Forever by Ian Fleming

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Plot Summary

Diamonds Are Forever is a novel by Ian Fleming featuring his popular character, James Bond. In this novel, Bond is assigned the task of infiltrating a diamond smuggling ring that begins in Africa, travels through England, and eventually ends in America. As part of the mission, Bond smuggles a package of diamonds into New York to seek out a job with the gang running the ring. Bond follows the instructions given to him by the man to whom he delivers the diamonds, but finds that taking orders is too boring to satisfy his more adventurous side. Bond purposely sets out to aggravate the mobster in charge of the gang and quickly finds himself in terrible danger. The novel is another exciting chapter in the life of James Bond and will entertain both die-hard fans of Fleming and those new to the author's prose.

M brings Bond to his office and teaches him a little about diamonds before telling him about a diamond smuggling ring that is causing trouble for the English government. M wants Bond to take the place of a man hired to be a courier for the smuggling ring and infiltrate the ring in hopes of learning who is in charge. However, M is concerned about a possible connection to the American mobsters and warns Bond to be cautious. Bond, as usual, chooses to ignore this concern. He smuggles a package of diamonds into New York in his golf bag and presents himself to the ring's representative, expressing a desire to obtain a job with them. The man is cautious about Bond's eagerness, but does tell him that if he follows instructions, he may earn the job.

Bond is told to go to Saratoga Springs and bet on a horse in order to win his payment for the diamonds. The mob does not want to give Bond his money straight out because they are afraid it will encourage questions from customs when Bond tries to return to England. Instead, Bond is to bet on a horse that the mob is certain will win his race. However, thanks to the meddling of a friend of Bond's, the horse is disqualified after his race and Bond does not win any money. Bond calls the mob to complain and is given an alternative plan. Bond is to go to Las Vegas and play at a specific blackjack table at a specific time and he will be allowed to win his payment. However, Bond is told not to play at any other table during his visit in Las Vegas.

Bond wins his money and then ignores his orders by playing roulette. Bond wants to attract the attention of the mob boss, Seraffimo Spang. Bond succeeds at getting the man's attention. The next day while driving around the city, Bond realizes he is being followed. Bond and his taxi driver, who is really a Pinkerton man, try to evade their tails, but Bond is caught anyway. He is taken to a Western town that Spang has built to entertain himself and his friends. Here Bond is beaten badly by some of Spang's men. Spang has learned that Bond is not the courier Spang thought he had hired and Spang wants to know who he really is. However, Spang makes the mistake of leaving Bond alone while he and his men sleep.

Bond is rescued by the girl who set him up with the diamonds, a girl Bond has fallen in love with. Bond and the girl escape the small town by the rails and catch the train on fire on the way out. Before they reach safety, however, Bond and the girl find Spang



coming up behind them in his antique train engine. Bond pulls the lever on the train switching arm and kills Spang as he and his train rush past. Moments later Bond hears the train crash.

Bond and the girl are rescued by a friend of Bond's who quickly puts Bond and the girl on a plane back to New York and then a ship to England. However, they are followed onto the ship by two of Spang's men with orders to kill the girl. Bond figures out this plot just in time to rescue the girl, but is forced to kill the two men. Later, Bond goes to Africa to stop the beginning arm of the smuggling ring. The man tries to get away, but Bond stops him by shooting down his helicopter, effectively ending the smuggling ring.



Chapter 1, The Pipe Line Opens

Chapter 1, The Pipe Line Opens Summary

Diamonds Are Forever is a James Bond novel by Ian Fleming. In this novel, Bond is assigned the task of infiltrating a diamond smuggling ring that begins in Africa, travels through England, and ends in America. As part of the mission, Bond smuggles a package of diamonds into New York in order to seek out a job with the gang running the ring. Bond follows the instructions given to him by the man to whom he delivers the diamonds, but finds that taking orders from others is too slow to satisfy his more adventurous side. Bond purposely sets out to aggravate the mobster in charge of the gang and quickly finds himself in terrible danger. This novel is another exciting chapter in the life of James Bond that will entertain both die-hard Fleming fans as well as those who are new to his prose.

A man waits in the African desert for a helicopter. The man is anxious because what he is doing is dangerous. The man has been using his job as a dentist at a diamond mine to steal raw, uncut diamonds. The man wants to ask for more money from his employer but is afraid his request will not be granted due to the caution of the men he works for. When the helicopter finally arrives a few minutes later than expected, the man complains to the pilot, telling him about an inspector who has been spending time at the mine. Things have gotten too hot for the workers and the man has been forced to pay them more, meaning he gets less of a cut than before. The pilot shows little sympathy. The man watches the helicopter fly away and thinks about how nice it would be to quit when he has enough money to make it all worthwhile.

Chapter 1, The Pipe Line Opens Analysis

A man is waiting in the African desert for a helicopter. He is unhappy and the reader can tell when he becomes anxious when the helicopter does not arrive at its appointed time. The man is a dentist who works at a diamond mine, using his position to steal diamonds with help from the mine workers. This seems like a very good way to make a great deal of money until the reader begins to read through the lines and see how anxious the man is about his thievery. Stealing from a mine is dangerous work, touching on a theme of the novel, and it puts everyone involved at risk of jail or even death.

When the helicopter arrives, the man has a plan in place to convince the man that he needs a pay raise. This man has been forced to pay the miners more for stealing the diamonds which means his own cut is much smaller because of an investigator that has been around the mine in the last few days. This again underscores to the reader the danger of this man's thievery. However, the pilot of the helicopter is not impressed, even though he does promise to pass on the word. The pilot leaves, promising to return the following month. This promise shows the reader that this is an ongoing thing and that it might possibly have something to do with James Bond's mission in this novel.



Chapter 2, Gem Quality; and Chapter 3, Hot Ice

Chapter 2, Gem Quality; and Chapter 3, Hot Ice Summary

James Bond has been called to M's office. M shows Bond a bunch of stones, having fun trying to see if Bond can tell the difference between a diamond and a quartz when he looks at them with a jeweler's glass. Bond is slow in figuring it out, but he does eventually. M then tells Bond that he has a new assignment for him. Someone has been smuggling diamonds into and out of England and this is causing trouble for the English government because they normally earn a great deal of money each year importing and exporting diamonds. This smuggling ring is cutting into the government's business. The government knows that the diamonds are being smuggled into America, but arresting the couriers does little to stop the trade. The government wants to identify who is behind the smuggling ring and stop them.

Bond agrees to the case because he has been bored with office duties. Bond goes to visit the Chief of Staff to learn more details about the case. The Chief of Staff tells Bond that they believe the American mobsters are involved in the diamond smuggling ring and they are concerned for Bond's safety. Bond finds this amusing since he has faced many dangerous situations, but the Chief of Staff tells him that American mobsters are much worse than even SMERSH, the Russian death squad. Bond insists on taking the assignment anyway, so the Chief of Staff sends him to speak with Vallance at Scotland Yard in order to get more information on the English side of the smuggling ring.

Scotland Yard has reason to believe that a diamond business in London, the House of Diamonds, is a front for diamond smuggling. Scotland Yard cannot prove this since the business and its president, Rufus B. Saye, are both free of legal entanglement. Vallance then tells Bond how one of their undercover agents found a man who claims to have been hired as a courier for this diamond smuggling ring. Bond is to take this man's place and meet with a woman, Tiffany Case, at a local hotel. First, however, Vallance wants Bond to go to the House of Diamonds and meet Saye. Vallance has a man change Bond's appearance to protect him and sends him to meet with Saye in the company of one of his agents.

Chapter 2, Gem Quality; and Chapter 3, Hot Ice Analysis

M teaches Bond how to recognize diamonds with the use of a jeweler's glass, a new hobby M has picked up through a friend. M finds it amusing when Bond has trouble, illustrating to the reader a little of the dynamics between these two men. Bond is the



more macho of the two, the one who goes out into the field and faces danger while M is the intelligent one who provides information and investigates from the safety of his office. The dynamics of these men begins to paint a picture of who they are and how they interact, an important element to the novel since M is about to send Bond into a situation that could result in his death.

M tells Bond about a diamond smuggling ring he wants him to infiltrate. Bond is excited by the assignment because he has grown tired of sitting at a desk every day. In fact, Bond brushes off M and the Chief of Staff's concerns about the danger of this assignment due to the fact that it involves American mobsters. Bond feels that since he has faced such assassins as the Russian SMERSH, he can handle a group of American gangsters. However, the idea has been given to the reader and adds tension to the novel as well as touching on the theme of danger.

Bond visits Scotland Yard and is given more background on the case. Scotland Yard believes a business called the House of Diamonds and its president, Rufus Saye, are responsible for the smuggling ring, but they cannot prove it. Scotland Yard hopes that if Bond replaces one of their couriers and infiltrates their organization in New York, he can make a connection that will help Scotland Yard put an end to the smuggling ring. In preparation for this task, Scotland Yard sends Bond to meet Saye, presenting the direction of the plot for the following chapter.



Chapter 4, 'What Goes on Around Here?'; Chapter 5, Feuilles Mortes

Chapter 4, 'What Goes on Around Here?'; Chapter 5, Feuilles Mortes Summary

Bond and Vallance's agent arrive at the House of Diamonds and are ushered into a small room to wait for Saye. While they are waiting, they overhear an argument between one of the employees and a man who is seeking to sell a diamond to the business. The seller is unhappy with the price being offered, but the buyer will not change his offer because he knows the seller cannot sell the diamond anywhere else. Bond finds this exchange only mildly interesting. A minute later, Saye walks in and is clearly not interested in speaking to Bond and Vallance's agent, but he gives them the courtesy of listening because it is expected. Vallance's man reads off a list of diamonds that have recently been stolen, asking if Saye has seen any of them. Saye listens closely and denies knowing about the diamonds, then sends the men away. In the car, Vallance's agent tells Bond that Saye is not a real diamond executive because half of the diamonds he mentioned in the office do not exist.

Bond goes that night to meet with the girl who is the couriers contact in London. Bond finds the girl attractive and desires to get to know her better even as she is attempting to keep the situation business-like. The girl wants to know about Bond and when he tells her that he plays golf, she tells him that they will say his trip to New York is a pleasure trip to play golf with an old friend names Shady Tree. The girl suggests they can smuggle the diamonds in his golf balls. The girl then tells Bond that he will fly to New York the following day and she will be on board to make sure he does not chicken out. Bond requests a date when he learns they will both be in New York and she reluctantly agrees. Bond leaves and the girl goes to a train station where she makes a phone call from a pay phone. The call is answered by an answering machine for someone called A B C. The girl leaves a message providing details of her meeting with Bond. A few hours later the girl gets a return message that confirms the plan.

Chapter 4, 'What Goes on Around Here?'; Chapter 5, Feuilles Mortes Analysis

Bond meets Rufus Saye and finds him to be brisk, but business like. It is not until later that Bond finds out the man is a fraud. Saye knew nothing about diamonds because Vallance's agent tested him by naming some supposedly stolen diamonds that are not in reality diamonds. Saye did not know they were not diamonds. This encounter is important because the reader will be reminded of it again later in the novel as Bond searches for the man in London who runs the organizational side of the smuggling ring.



Bond then goes to meet with the girl who will escort him on the flight to New York in order to smuggle the diamonds. The beautiful girl quickly catches Bond's attention, suggesting to the reader that she will be the special girl that Bond will fall for in this novel as he normally does in most of his stories. The girl suggests to Bond that he bring his golf clubs on the flight and that they will smuggle the diamonds in his golf balls. Bond agrees, more interested in getting a date with the girl than the specifics of the smuggling experiment. The girl goes to a pay phone and makes a call to a recording, giving the specifics of the trip and the idea about the golf balls. The girl later gets confirmation on the plan, setting the whole trip in motion. The reader now has an idea where the plot development will go in the next few chapters as Bond first prepares for and then takes this fateful trip.



Chapter 6, In Transit; Chapter 7, 'Shady' Tree

Chapter 6, In Transit; Chapter 7, 'Shady' Tree Summary

While Bond is preparing his luggage in a hotel room in London, he receives a message from the Chief of Staff. The message informs him that they have uncovered the true identity of Saye. His real name is Jack Spang, the brother of a mobster in America. The message goes on to name several people in the American mob, and directs Bond to abort the mission if he comes into contact with any of these people. One of the names is Shady Tree, a man Bond has already been told by the girl he will meet. However, Bond decides not to abort the mission. After sending his reply, Bond gets a call that his car has arrived. The driver, a member of the smuggling ring, refuses to speak to Bond and also refuses to allow him to touch the balls in which someone has placed the diamonds. At the airport, Bond is sent inside alone. He arrives at the gate moments before the girl. They board the plane without acknowledging each other. On the plane, Bond sits behind a man who is clearly afraid of flying. Bond finds this highly amusing.

Once the plane lands, Bond goes through customs. Despite the girl's nervousness, Bond gets through the process with no trouble. Bond is met by another driver who takes him straight to the New York offices of the House of Diamonds. Once again the driver refuses to let Bond handle the golf clubs, instead carrying them into the office himself. In the office Bond meets Shady Tree, a hunchback with a sour attitude. Bond attempts to be friendly, but Shady Tree clearly only wants to speak business. Shady Tree checks the diamonds and sends the driver away. Bond asks about his payment and Shady Tree tells him that they cannot pay him straight out because it might cause trouble if Bond is questioned about the money. Instead, Shady Tree tells Bond that they once had a bet when they knew each other in England and Shady has just now paid Bond back. Then Bond will go to Saratoga Springs and bet on a horse who will win enough to pay Bond for his work. Bond agrees to this plan and asks about the possibility of getting a job with the mob. Shady tells him if he follows directions closely it might be possible.

Chapter 6, In Transit; Chapter 7, 'Shady' Tree Analysis

Bond is given a warning by M and the Chief of Staff that the American mob has already been connected to the diamond smuggling ring and that he should abort if it looked like he might come in contact with any of them. Bond already knows he will come into contact with Shady Tree, one of the names listed in the message, but he refuses to abort. Bond does not want to go back to desk duty and he wants to get to know the girl a little better. Bond's decision could put his life in danger, but he does not seem terribly concerned at this point. Later, Bond travels to the airport with a driver who puts several new balls into his golf bag, presumably balls with diamonds hidden inside. At the airport,



Bond sees the girl but does not speak to her. On the plane he sees a man who is afraid of flying but thinks little of it except to be amused by him. The reader should remember this encounter, however, because it will prove to be important later in the novel.

When Bond arrives in New York he slips through customs with no trouble. Another driver takes him to the House of Diamonds where he meets Shady Tree, a hunchback with a bad attitude. Bond tries to charm him, but it does him no good. Instead, they talk business. Shady tells Bond about this elaborate scheme he must undertake in order to get paid for the job he did since the mob does not want to be directly connected with Bond and his money should someone question it. Bond is to go to Saratoga Springs to bet on a horse, suggesting to the reader a new direction for the development of the plot over the following chapters. Bond also asks for a more permanent job and is told if he follows directions well he may get one. It seems as if Bond's assignment is working well so far.



Chapter 8, The Eye that Never Sleeps

Chapter 8, The Eye that Never Sleeps Summary

Bond goes to his hotel to rest for a while and then returns to the streets to explore a little. Bond pauses outside the House of Diamonds before moving on to find a bar with air conditioning. However, after a few minutes Bond feels as though he is being followed. He ducks into a doorway to catch whoever it is, but his adversary has arrived there ahead of him. Bond feels what he thinks is a gun in his back, but it turns out to be a hook. The adversary turns out to be an old friend of Bond's. The two go to a nearby restaurant for drinks and to catch up. The man, called Leiter, was once with the CIA, but after being badly injured he retired and joined the Pinkertons. Now he is on a case having to do with the Spangled Gang, the same mob group that owns the House of Diamonds and presumably runs the smuggling ring.

Leiter tells Bond that he is on his way to Saratoga Springs to check out the horse Shy Smile that the Spangled Gang owns. It is suspected that Shy Smile was a mediocre race horse that was replaced with a stronger race horse that has the same markings as the original horse. Leiter is supposed to prove the trade and to stop the horse from winning its race the following week. This horse is the same one Bond is supposed to place his bet on. Bond then tells Leiter about his case and Leiter gives him some background on the Spangled Gang, including Tiffany Case, the girl who flew to New York with Bond. Tiffany is the daughter of a woman who once owned a brothel. The woman made the mistake of not paying off the mob and they broke into her brothel one night to teach her a lesson. The men violated young Tiffany who then ran away and became an alcoholic. A kind woman helped Tiffany through rehab and then she moved to Las Vegas where she went to work at the Tiara, a casino owned by the leader of the Spangled Gang, Seraffimo Spang.

Chapter 8, The Eye that Never Sleeps Analysis

Bond runs into an old friend from another case, Felix Leiter. Leiter is on a case having to do with the same people Bond is dealing with and shares information with him. Leiter is investigating a horse the Spangled Gang owns, the same gang that owns the House of Diamonds. Leiter believes the horse that Bond is supposed to bet on, Shy Smile, has been switched with a stronger, faster horse in a scheme for the gang to win a lot of money. Leiter is out to stop the horse from winning and to prove that it has been switched. Leiter's assignment coincides with Bond's so the reader can expect to see more of him in later chapters as well as expecting an impact from his case to touch Bond. If Bond does not win the money because his friend is successful at stopping the horse from winning the race, the reader must expect he will contact Shady Tree in order to get his money some other way.



Leiter then tells Bond about the girl, Tiffany Case. The girl has lived a sad life full of violence. After being attacked by the mob, the girl became an alcoholic, surviving only through the kindness a strange lady. Tiffany then moved to Las Vegas and went to work for a mobster. This seems ironic, but perhaps Tiffany had her reasons for making this choice, reasons the reader is sure to learn later in the novel. This information on Tiffany's background seems to make Bond more sympathetic to her, suggesting the girl will appear in his life again. Finally, Leiter supplies the name of the leader of the Spangled Gang for Bond, giving him an idea of who he needs to impress to get a job with the gang and therefore bring them down.



Chapter 9, Bitter Champagne; Chapter 10, Studillac to Saratoga

Chapter 9, Bitter Champagne; Chapter 10, Studillac to Saratoga Summary

Bond meets Tiffany for their date at 21. Tiffany makes it clear from the beginning that she has no intention of becoming intimate with Bond, which he finds amusing. They talk over dinner about the Spangled Gang and the smuggling racket. Bond tells Tiffany he would like a permanent job with the gang, an idea she does not seem to find pleasing. Tiffany tells Bond that the man she works for at the Tiara is Seraffimo Spang and that the smuggling ring appears to be run by a man named A B C. She knows little about him but does happen to have his phone number. Bond tries to push her for more information, but she becomes tense and refuses. Later, when Bond walks Tiffany to her hotel room, she begs him to be careful because the people he is dealing with are dangerous.

The next day, Bond gets a ride with Leiter up to Saratoga Springs in his sporty Studillac, a Studebaker with a Cadillac engine. After discussing the merits of American sports cars, Leiter gives Bond an article on Saratoga Springs that gives him some background on the area. The article talks about how the races were once a fun pastime for rich people, but have been infiltrated by mobsters out to make an easy buck. First the mobsters made their money by making illegal bets, but eventually got involved with the horses themselves. It is an interesting article that gives Bond all the background he needs to expect trouble in Saratoga Springs.

Chapter 9, Bitter Champagne; Chapter 10, Studillac to Saratoga Analysis

Bond has dinner with Tiffany and tries to learn from her as much as he can about the people who hire her to smuggle diamonds. All Tiffany can really share is information about Seraffimo Spang, which Bond already knows thanks to Leiter, and information about A B C. Bond is curious about A B C and he wants to get the phone number from Tiffany, but he is afraid if he asks for it now he will blow his cover. Instead, Bond tries to push her on the other members of the gang, but this causes Tiffany to become upset and stop talking to him about it. Later, Tiffany warns Bond to be careful, revealing to the reader that she has feelings for Bond. This is not a surprise since the reader is already aware of Bond's feelings for Tiffany, but it introduces a new level of attachment between them that could cause Bond trouble later as the plot continues to develop.

Bond later travels to Saratoga Springs as has been suggested he would in previous chapters. Bond and Leiter drive up together in Leiter's sports car, discussing the merits



of American cars on the way. Then Leiter gives Bond an article that outlines the history of the mob in Saratoga. This article talks about illegal bets and manipulating horses by the mob in such a way that the mob makes a great deal of money while the average guy loses. The article helps Bond prepare for what he will find when he gets to Saratoga Springs, especially in light of Leiter's assignment to investigate the true identity of the Spangled Gang's horse.



Chapter 11, Shy Smile; Chapter 12, The Perpetuities

Chapter 11, Shy Smile; Chapter 12, The Perpetuities Summary

That night Leiter and Bond meet for dinner at which time Leiter tells Bond that he has learned that Shy Smile will be on the practice track at five o'clock the next morning. Bond and Leiter go to the track to watch the horse run and find a horse that runs much faster than Shy Smile reportedly had done in the past. Later Bond goes exploring around the track while Leiter has a meeting with the jockey scheduled to ride Shy Smile. Bond wanders into an auction and watches as a woman pays a great deal of money for a pony. Leiter rejoins him a few minutes later and tells him that he has convinced the jockey to make an illegal move on another horse and rider during the race so that he will be disqualified in such a way that the Spangled Gang cannot hold him responsible.

Bond watches the race in the stands the following day. It is a good race and Shy Smile gives a good showing. Just before reaching the finish line, the jockey on Shy Smile forces another horse against the rails. Shy Smile wins the race but is quickly disqualified for the illegal move. Bond, who did not place his bet, is happy with the result. However, Bond is not happy that he agreed to make the payoff because the payoff is to be done at the mud baths outside of town and Bond is not sure how to go about contacting the jockey there. Bond is also unhappy with the idea of having to take a mud bath.

Chapter 11, Shy Smile; Chapter 12, The Perpetuities Analysis

Bond and Leiter confirm the theory that Shy Smile has been switched with a faster horse when they go to the practice ring and watch him run. This horse is much faster than the other one that only placed as high as third in all its previous races. Now Leiter has to figure out how to proceed. Leiter tells Bond he cannot go to the authorities because they will not be able to punish the mob properly, so instead he goes to the jockey and bribes him into throwing the race. The scheme is dangerous as it puts the jockey and Leiter in jeopardy should the mob find out about it, suggesting a direction for the plot in the next few chapters.

The race is the next day. Bond is in the audience, watching the festivities with a cautious eye. He holds on to his money rather than making a bet that he knows he will not win. The race is exciting, ending exactly as Leiter had planned, with Shy Smile disqualified for the actions of the jockey. Bond finds the reactions of those in the stands amusing, especially the reaction of the supposed owner of Shy Smile, an employee of Seraffimo Spang's. However, Bond is not as happy about the payoff he is about to make



on Leiter's behalf to the jockey. Bond has to make the payoff at the mud baths and he does not want to have to take a bath. Bond's reluctance adds tension to the plot and sets up the events of the following chapter.



Chapter 13, Acme Mud and Sulphur; Chapter 14, 'We Don't Like Mistakes'

Chapter 13, Acme Mud and Sulphur; Chapter 14, 'We Don't Like Mistakes' Summary

Bond takes the bus to the Acme Mud and Sulphur, feeling sick when the doors open and the smell of sulphur fills his nostrils. Bond is very unhappy being here, but he hides his feelings as he buys his ticket and undresses in the dressing room. Bond hides the money he has brought for the payoff in his jacket and locks his dressing stall before going into the room where the mud baths take place. Each person who wants a bath is put into a coffin-like box and the mud is poured around them. Bond watches the attendant prepare his coffin before climbing into it and allowing the attendant to pour buckets of hot mud around him.

Moments after Bond is settled, the jockey comes in. Bond is still unsure how he is going to approach the man, hoping that perhaps he can talk to him in the dressing room after their treatments. The attendant puts the jockey into his box and has just settled him in when the back door bursts open. Two men with black hoods over their heads come inside and demand to know where the jockey is. The men tell the jockey that they believe someone paid him to be disqualified in the race and that the Spangled Gang is unhappy with him. One of the men pours hot mud on the jockey's face before leaving. Bond relates the story to Leiter later in the evening. Leiter wants details on the hooded men. When Bond tells him he saw a wart on the thumb of one of the men, Leiter identifies them as Wint and Kidd, two hit men who work for Seraffimo Spang.

Bond calls Shady Tree and complains about not getting his money. Shady Tree tells Bond to go to Las Vegas and stay at the Tiara. There, Bond is to play at a blackjack table at a specific time and he will be allowed to win his five thousand dollars. However, Bond is ordered not to play at any of the other tables. Afterward, Bond is supposed to stick around his room and wait for a phone call. Bond agrees to the orders. Bond has dinner with Leiter later and tells him about his new orders. Leiter is on his way to Las Vegas as well in order to look for the buried corpse of the original Shy Smile. However, Leiter cannot leave until later in the week so he tells Bond he will alert another Pinkerton man, an agent working as a taxi driver, of Bond's arrival in case he needs assistance.

Chapter 13, Acme Mud and Sulphur; Chapter 14, 'We Don't Like Mistakes' Analysis

Despite his displeasure at the prospect, Bond goes to the Acme Mud and Sulphur in order to meet with the jockey. Bond has to take a mud bath in order to be in the right place at the right time to meet with the man, but the prospect is unpleasant and he



spends a great deal of his time focused on his own discomfort, causing Bond to miss the signals that trouble may be on its way. When the jockey is set in his own mud bath, two men with hoods on their heads break into the room and assault the jockey. The Spangled Gang believes that the jockey disqualified himself on purpose and caused the gang to lose a great deal of money. When Bond tells Leiter about this episode, Leiter identifies the two men by a wart Bond saw on the thumb of one man. The identity of these two men, as well as the wart, is important because they will appear in the story again and it will be important that Bond be able to identify them again.

Bond then calls Shady Tree and complains about not getting his money. Shady Tree sends Bond to Las Vegas to win back his money on the blackjack tables. Bond is pleased with this turn of events because he knows that Tiffany works at the Tiara and figures he may run into her there. When Bond tells Leiter where he is going next, Leiter tells him he plans to be there at the end of the week but in the meantime he will set Bond up with another Pinkerton man who works there under the cover of a taxi driver. Important here is not only Leiter's setting Bond up with this other man but also Leiter's promise that he will be there soon. Both of these men will play an important part in the following chapters.



Chapter 15, Rue De La Pay; Chapter 16, The Tiara; Chapter 17, Thanks for the Ride

Chapter 15, Rue De La Pay; Chapter 16, The Tiara; Chapter 17, Thanks for the Ride Summary

Bond flies to Las Vegas and is met at the airport by Earnest Cureo, Leiter's coworker. Cureo tells Bond about the mobs in Las Vegas and tells him to hire his cab for the week so that it will not look suspicious when he hangs around. Bond agrees and checks into the Tiara. Bond finds the hotel luxurious, but is amused by the design of the hotel that forces the customer to walk through the casino no matter where he intends to go within the hotel. On the appointed night, Bond tours the casino before he goes to play blackjack. Bond is pleased to find that the dealer is Tiffany Case. Tiffany acts very professionally, not even acknowledging Bond. They play five hands as ordered and Bond wins every one.

Bond cashes out his chips and returns to the casino despite his orders to return to his room. Bond decides to disobey his orders in order to speed the process up. Bond plays roulette with his winnings and wins four times his original winnings. Seraffimo is in the casino and takes note of Bond's actions. Bond gets the distinct impression Seraffimo is not happy with him. Bond then mails his winnings to England and returns to his room.

Chapter 15, Rue De La Pay; Chapter 16, The Tiara; Chapter 17, Thanks for the Ride Analysis

Bond arrives in Las Vegas and right away meets Leiter's man. Earnest Cureo is knowledgeable about Las Vegas and gives Bond a quick history of the area, emphasizing the mob's role in the area. Cureo suggests Bond hires his cab for the length of time he is there so that he can hang around to help Bond and no one will question his presence. Bond agrees, alerting the reader to the fact that Cureo will appear in the narration in a later chapter. Then Bond checks into the hotel and enjoys the luxury of it before going to the casino at the appointed time.

Bond plays his game of blackjack, pleased to see Tiffany there. After winning five hands, Bond cashes out his chips and decides to disobey his orders of not playing at any other table. Bond feels that things are moving too slowly, but if he disobeys his orders in a public venue he will get the attention of the Spangled Gang. It appears to work because Seraffimo appears while Bond is playing roulette. Bond wins four times his winnings from blackjack. He sends some of this money home to England and then

walks away, leaving Seraffimo fuming. Now the reader must wonder what Seraffimo is going to do about this situation.



Chapter 18, Night Falls in the Passion Pit; Chapter 19, Spectreville

Chapter 18, Night Falls in the Passion Pit; Chapter 19, Spectreville Summary

Bond meets up with Cureo and they go for a ride in order to talk. As they are driving through town, Cureo points out the fact that they are being followed by two different cars. Cureo suggests that he engages the cars in order to force their hand and see what they want. Bond agrees. Cureo purposely stops in front of one car, forcing it to run into his cab. Cureo speeds past the other car just as the men inside pull out their guns and fire. The gunshots blow out some windows, but Cureo keeps going. Bond tells him to turn a corner and stop. Bond watches for the car to come up behind them and then fires on it. The driver is hit and crashes the car. The car catches fire and before Bond can help the other driver, he discovers that Cureo has been shot. Bond jumps into the car and takes off again when he realizes there is another car on their tail. Bond turns into a drive-in movie to hide, but the mobsters find them and force Bond to go with them.

Bond is driven several hours to a place called Spectreville, an old West town that Seraffimo has had rebuilt for his own pleasure. Once there, Bond is escorted to a bar where he turns on his kidnappers and beats them. However, the effort is wasted because Seraffimo is there with his two hooded hit men. Tiffany is also there. Bond is taken out the back of the building to an antique train engine and car. He is prepared to make excuses for his actions in order to get on Seraffimo's good graces. However, Seraffimo has received a telegram from England informing him that the real courier has been in jail for several weeks and that Bond is a fake. Seraffimo wants to know who Bond really is. When Bond refuses to tell him, Seraffimo orders the hit men to beat him while wearing cleated football shoes.

Chapter 18, Night Falls in the Passion Pit; Chapter 19, Spectreville Analysis

Bond and Cureo are being followed by some of Seraffimo's men. Cureo decides to antagonize the men to see what they will do. First Cureo disables one car by allowing it to run into the back of his taxi. The men in the second car are unhappy with this turn of events and fire on them. Bond has Cureo stop the car so he can shoot, killing one of the men and causing an accident that kills the other. However, Cureo has been shot so Bond has to end this fight himself. Bond races to a drive-in movie, but he is followed and captured. Cureo is left alone to deal with his wounds while Bond must face Seraffimo's wrath.



The theme of danger is illustrated in these chapters better than any other. Bond is not the kind of man to sit back and allow things to happen to him. Bond attacks his kidnappers in an attempt to get away, but finds he has simply walked into the boss's lair. Seraffimo is waiting for Bond with his two hooded hit men. Seraffimo tells Bond that he knows he is not the courier they thought they had hired and he wants to know who he is. Bond refuses to talk, so Seraffimo orders his men to beat it out of him.



Chapter 20, Flames Coming Out of the Top; Chapter 21, 'Nothing Propinks Like Propinquity'

Chapter 20, Flames Coming Out of the Top; Chapter 21, 'Nothing Propinks Like Propinquity' Summary

Tiffany wakes Bond and tells him that they have to escape. Bond is badly beaten and barely able to stay conscious. Tiffany helps him out to the train tracks where she has a handcar waiting. Bond climbs aboard, but becomes afraid the noise of the handcar's engine will wake Seraffimo and his men. Bond goes back to the station and lights a fire. Bond and Tiffany get away just as the fire is blooming large behind them. For a while Bond and Tiffany ride in silence, both trying to figure out what they will do when they get to the next town. However, they soon realize that Seraffimo is behind them in his antique engine. To add to their trouble, the handcar runs out of gas. Tiffany suggests they hide the car onto a branch just ahead. Instead, Bond pushes the lever that will force the antique engine off onto the branch. Bond waits for the engine with his gun ready. As the engine screams by, Bond shoots at Seraffimo, hitting him several times. The engine then crashes around a bend on the branch.

Bond and Tiffany walk several miles to the highway where they are picked up by Leiter. Leiter takes them to California where he gets medical help for Bond before putting both Bond and Tiffany on a plane for New York. Leiter is concerned that the Spangled Gang will still be after them so he arranges for them to board a ship for England the next afternoon. Bond believes the case to be resolved except for identifying the man who calls himself A B C. Bond believes that he can learn the identity of this man if Tiffany will give him the phone number she calls in London. In the meantime, Bond and Tiffany settle in their staterooms while two Texas business men board the ship behind them.

Chapter 20, Flames Coming Out of the Top; Chapter 21, 'Nothing Propinks Like Propinquity' Analysis

Bond and Tiffany escape thanks to Tiffany's quick thinking. However, Seraffimo is quickly on their tail with his antique engine. Despite being badly injured, Bond thinks quickly and maneuvers the track so that the heavy engine will be forced to take a turn. Bond then fires on the train, shooting Seraffimo. The engine crashes, ending Seraffimo's life. Bond and Tiffany make their way to the highway, believing the worst of the danger is behind them. Leiter finds them on the street, having come to the area after learning about Cureo's shooting. Leiter takes them to California to get them as far away from the surviving Spangled Gang as possible before sending them to New York. From there, Bond and Tiffany board a ship headed to England.



Bond believes the case is over except for identifying the man who calls himself A B C. This man is the last link in the diamond smuggling ring and Bond believes that Tiffany may be the best way to find this man. However, for now Bond intends to enjoy the slow ride back to England. Unknown to Bond, two business men boarded the ship at the last minute, one of whom is afraid of flying and is a man Bond saw on board the flight to New York. The reader should recognize the appearance of these men to men something bad might be about to happen since the chances that their appearance is a coincidence is unlikely.



Chapter 22, Love and Sauce Bearnaise; Chapter 23, The Job Comes Second

Chapter 22, Love and Sauce Bearnaise; Chapter 23, The Job Comes Second Summary

Bond and Tiffany use the first couple of days on the ship to relax. On the third day they meet for dinner. At first Bond tries to question Tiffany about the Spangled Gang and A B C, but their conversation soon turns personal. Bond admits that he was jealous when it appeared that Tiffany was Seraffimo's lover. Tiffany then asks what kind of a woman Bond might marry. Bond tells her he would marry a beautiful woman who could make a good sauce Bearnaise. In response, Tiffany sends Bond some sauce Bearnaise that she made in the kitchen. Bond is impressed.

Bond and Tiffany go to an auction where people make bets on how far the ship will travel the next day. Two men enter, drawing Bond's attention. One is a white haired man who is clearly younger than his hair color suggests. The other is a large man who is boisterous and seems familiar to Bond. The larger man bids on the right to choose the high or low end of the mileage scale, betting a large number. Everyone expects him to choose the high end since the weather is good and there does not appear to be anything to stop the ship's progress, but the man chooses the low end. All of these things set off warning bells in Bond's mind, but Tiffany distracts him by suggesting they return to his stateroom.

Chapter 22, Love and Sauce Bearnaise; Chapter 23, The Job Comes Second Analysis

Bond and Tiffany forget about the case after a while and begin to get to know each other better. Bond admits his affection for Tiffany, which pleases her because she has feelings for him as well. Bond describes to Tiffany the kind of woman he might marry and Tiffany quickly takes her first opportunity to prove to him she would be the ideal woman for him. Bond is impressed with Tiffany and begins to think about a future with her. This touches on the theme of commitment as Bond begins to weigh the idea of marriage against his commitment to his job.

During an auction on board, two men come into the room that strike Bond as familiar. Bond watches the one man bid for the right to choose a high or low number for the bet on the ship's mileage, thinking he should be able to place the man, but Bond cannot. However, when the man chooses the low number despite the good weather, Bond is even more puzzled. Tiffany distracts him and he does not remember. Instead, Bond and Tiffany consummate their relationship.



Chapter 24, Death Is So Permanent; Chapter 25, The Pipe Line Closes

Chapter 24, Death Is So Permanent; Chapter 25, The Pipe Line Closes Summary

Bond wakes in the middle of the night when someone delivers a message to him. Bond is alone since Tiffany left a few minutes before. The message tells Bond that two hired killers are reported to be on the ship with him. Bond quickly calls Tiffany and when she does not answer her phone, he goes to her room but she is nowhere to be found. Bond returns to his room and reads the message again. The name Winter is on the message and Bond looks the name up on the passenger list. Suddenly Bond figures out that Winter is Wint the hit man, and that the man with him must be Kidd. Bond climbs down to their room from his window, entering through their window. Bond sends Tiffany into the bathroom and shoots both men. Bond makes the scene look like a murder suicide in order to confuse the police long enough for him and Tiffany to get off the ship when it docks in England.

Bond travels to Africa to catch the diamond smugglers at the mine. Bond and a group of military personnel wait while the smuggler waits for his contact. When the helicopter arrives, Bond and his associates rush to the site, but are too late to stop the pilot from killing the dentist who worked as the smuggler. Bond tries to stop the pilot, who proves to be Jack Spang, also identified as A B C, from taking off but is unsuccessful. Bond fires at the helicopter and causes it to crash, thus ending the diamond smuggling ring.

Chapter 24, Death Is So Permanent; Chapter 25, The Pipe Line Closes Analysis

Bond gets a message about the killers on board the ship and puts it all together, finally realizing that he saw the two men from the auction on board the plane from England to New York. Now Bond knows these men must have Tiffany who has suddenly disappeared. Bond sneaks into their stateroom and a gun fight breaks out. Bond kills Kidd first and then Wint. Bond sets the scene to make it look as though it is a murder suicide over a game of cards. This should help Bond and Tiffany get off the ship in England without any trouble.



Characters

James Bond

James Bond is a spy for a special branch of the British Intelligence. Bond is a man who enjoys adventure, so when he is stuck behind a desk doing paperwork he is always happy to be reassigned to an undercover job. This time Bond goes to America to find out who is behind a diamond smuggling ring. The mission is dangerous because it involves the members of an American mobster gang. Bond is warned that if he is to be in contact with any of the most dangerous members of the gang that he should end the mission and return home. However, Bond does not abort the mission because he was bored on the desk and he wants the adventure that this assignment will provide.

Bond travels to America with an illegal bundle of diamonds hidden in his golf bag. He makes it through customs and hands the diamonds over to the contact in New York. When Bond requests his payment, the man tells him he cannot pay him directly because it would raise the eyebrows of the government officials. Instead, the man tells Bond to bet on a horse. Bond runs into an old friend and together the two of them go to Saratoga Springs to check out the horse races. However, the horse that is supposed to win does not because Bond's friend pays off the jockey to disqualify the horse during the race. Bond then goes to Vegas to play the blackjack tables. Bond is unhappy with how long it is taking for the leaders of the smuggling ring to approach him, so he purposely breaks the rules they set out for him. This causes the boss to send a group of killers after Bond, but Bond kills several of them and manages to outrun the others for a short time. When Bond is finally caught, he is beaten badly by the mob leader's men. Still, Bond escapes and kills the bad guys.

On the way back to England, Bond and the girl take a ship. On board the ship a couple of hit men are assigned the task of killing Bond's girl. They wait for her in her stateroom and then take her to their own stateroom. Bond learns they are on board and quickly figures out who the bad guys are. Bond sneaks into their room and kills them both. Bond then sets the scene to look like a murder suicide in order to keep suspicion off the other passengers long enough for Bond and his girl to get off the ship. The ploy works. Bond then goes after the beginning of the smuggling ring, the brother of the mob boss, and is forced to kill the man when he tries to escape. Bond's mission is completed successfully.

M

M is the boss of Bond's division of the special branch. M learns about the assignment and decides to teach Bond how to recognize a real diamond among quartz. M has recently taken up diamonds as a type of hobby and finds it amusing to share this new hobby with Bond, especially when Bond fails to see the difference between the diamond and the quartz. Then M tells Bond about the smuggling ring and how it is having an



adverse effect on the English government because England is a stopping point for the ring. However, M is concerned about Bond becoming involved in the case because he suspects the ring is run by an American mob gang and he knows that American mobsters can be dangerous and unpredictable. M tells Bond not to engage with the most dangerous of these American mobsters, but Bond disregards this order because he believes he can handle the case without the deadly results M predicts. Bond is correct, but he does end up having to kill six out of seven of the people directly involved in the diamond smuggling ring.

Tiffany Case

Tiffany Case is a young lady who works for Seraffimo Spang. Tiffany is the daughter of a woman who once owned a brothel. Tiffany's mother failed to pay off the mob and paid the price when one night they broke into her house and tore it to pieces. That night, Tiffany was violated by several of the mobsters. Tiffany ran away from home after that night and became an alcoholic before being taken in by a kindly woman. Later, Tiffany moved to Las Vegas and went to work in the Tiara casino, which is owned by Seraffimo Spang, who became enamored with Tiffany despite the fact that she refused to become his lover.

Tiffany is Bond's contact when he first pretends to be the courier the diamond smugglers are expecting to take their diamonds to America. Tiffany fascinates Bond from the moment they meet because she seems so strong on the outside, but Bond suspects she is very fragile inside. Bond asks her on a date when they arrive in New York safely. Tiffany agrees and they have a pleasant meal in an expensive restaurant until Bond pushes Tiffany too hard on the Spangled Gang. Later, when Bond arrives in Vegas to win his money at blackjack, Tiffany is the dealer. Bond wants to speak to her, but knows that it is not the right time. Later, however, when Bond is taken to Seraffimo, he finds Tiffany there. Bond is jealous of what appears to be the conclusion of a dinner between lovers until Tiffany rescues him from Seraffimo's grip.

Tiffany and Bond manage to get away from Seraffimo. However, on the ship ride home they run into more of Seraffimo's men who have orders from Seraffimo's brother to kill Tiffany. They kidnap Tiffany from her stateroom. Bond finds the killers and rescues Tiffany, but he is forced to kill the two men. Bond sets the room up to look as though a murder suicide has taken place in order to give himself and Tiffany a chance to get off the boat before the police begin to suspect the passengers. When they arrive in London, Bond has Tiffany taken to his apartment since she has no where else to go and because Bond has developed strong feelings for her.

Felix Leiter

Felix Leiter is a friend of Bond's who once worked with the CIA. Bond and Leiter worked together once before, but Leiter was badly injured and forced to retire from the CIA. Now Leiter works for Pinkerton Detective Agency. He meets up with Bond because he



saw him at the offices of the House of Diamonds and this company is the center of a case Leiter is working on. Leiter has been given a tip that Seraffimo Spang is about to run a race at Saratoga Springs in which he has switches his mediocre horse with another, more powerful horse that looks like the original. Leiter wants to stop this horse from winning a big race in order to send a message to the Spangled Gang. When the horse is disqualified from the race, Leiter is given orders to go to Las Vegas in order to find the buried corpse of the original horse in order to prove the switch. While in Vegas, Leiter hears that Bond is in trouble and goes looking for him. Leiter happens to come across Tiffany and Bond as they reach the road after running away from Seraffimo and his men. Leiter arranges for Bond and Tiffany to return to New York and then take a ship back to England where they will be safe from the Spangled Gang.

Jack Spang

Jack Spang, aka Rufus Saye, is Seraffimo Spang's brother. Jack runs the House of Diamonds in England and is the first stop for the smuggled diamonds on their way to America. Jack is also A B C, the mysterious leader of the smuggling ring, the man who gives all the orders and directs the actions of the smuggling ring. Bond meets Jack early in the novel when he goes with one of Vallance's men to the House of Diamonds in order to meet Rufus Saye. Vallance's man uses the ruse of looking for some stolen diamonds for the meeting. The man gives Saye a list of diamonds that are supposedly missing and Saye listens to the list with little comment. Later Bond finds out that most of the diamonds the man listed are not really diamonds, proving that Saye knows little about the business he supposedly runs. This makes M and the members of the special division suspicious and they quickly figure out that Saye is really Jack Spang. It is not until the end of the novel, however, the Bond figures out that Jack is also A B C. When Bond goes after A B C, he runs away in a helicopter and Bond is forced to shoot him down.

Seraffimo Spang

Seraffimo Spang is the leader of an American mobster gang called the Spangled Gang. Seraffimo is a small man who has a fascination with everything western. Seraffimo has built himself a western town outside of Las Vegas and owns a train engine and car that he takes out every weekend and drives himself. It is here that Seraffimo takes Bond after he caught him breaking his orders in the Tiara casino. Seraffimo does not trust Bond and it makes it even more difficult for Seraffimo when he receives word from England that the courier they thought Bond was has been in jail for several weeks. No one knows who Bond is now and Seraffimo wants to find out. Seraffimo has two of his men put on football shoes and beat Bond badly. Seraffimo thinks that Bond is down for the count. However, Tiffany manages to wake him and help him escape on a small rail cart. Before leaving, Bond sets fire to Seraffimo's beloved western town. Seraffimo comes after Tiffany and Bond in his antique train engine. Bond manages to shoot Seraffimo as he passes him in the engine, killing him shortly before the engine crashes.



Michael 'Shady' Tree

Shady Tree is the manager of the House of Diamonds in New York. Shady Tree is a member of the mob with a bad reputation. Shady is the man to whom Bond delivers the diamonds in New York. Bond finds Shady egotistical and suffering illusions of grandeur. When Bond tries to compliment Shady, Shady takes the comment wrong and becomes offended. Bond requests his payment for the diamonds and Shady comes up with a scheme that will protect Bond should he be questioned by customs when he returns to England. Bond is to take a thousand dollars from Shady that is supposedly from a bet they made years before, and put it down on a bet on a horse at Saratoga Springs. Bond does this, but thanks to his friend Leiter, the horse does not win. Shady then directs Bond to go to Vegas and play blackjack at a specific time. Shady also tells Bond not to play any other game after blackjack. However, Bond disobeys this order and plays roulette, quadrupling his money. This gets the attention of Seraffimo Spang, just as Bond has hoped it would.

Mr. Winter and Mr. Kitteridge

Mr. Winter and Mr. Kitteridge are two hit men who work for Seraffimo Spang known as Wint and Kidd. Wint and Kidd work with hoods on most of the time, so Tiffany, despite spending a great deal of time with these men, does not know what they look like. Not only this, but when they break into the mud baths to punish the jockey for being disqualified during the race, Bond does not recognize them. Again when they beat Bond on Seraffimo's train Bond does not recognize them except as the men from the mud baths. However, when Bond sees them on the ship, he knows them as two men who sat in front of him on the airplane from England to New York. Bond does not recognize them in time to save Tiffany from being kidnapped, but he does manage to save her before they can hurt her. Bond kills both men and makes their deaths look like a murder suicide.

Vallance

Vallance is a cop who works for Scotland Yard. Bond worked closely with Vallance during a previous mission, so when M sends him to speak to Vallance again in regards to the diamond smuggling ring Bond is more than happy to do so. Vallance tells Bond about the House of Diamonds and how Rufus Saye, the man who runs the company, is clean despite the fact that the House of Diamonds is assumed to be a cover for the diamond smuggling ring. Vallance then sets up a meeting between Bond and Saye so that Bond can check this man out for himself. Before he sends him over, Vallance has one of his men make Bond up in such a way that he will not be recognized by Saye at a later date. Bond goes to the meeting only to realize that Saye, a man who works in diamonds, knows little about them. Later, Bond learns that Saye is actually Jack Spang, the brother of Seraffimo Spang, the leader of the Spangled Gang.



Chief of Staff

The Chief of Staff is a sort of assistant to M. The Chief of Staff is the one who calls Bond when M wants to see him and it is the Chief of Staff who arranges meetings for Bond and sends him correspondence when something important comes up in the process of investigating a specific mission. Bond is fond of the Chief of Staff and they appear to be good friends. During this mission, the Chief of Staff sets up the meeting between Bond and Vallance. It is also the Chief of Staff who sends Bond the orders that tell him to abort the mission if he is to come into direct contact with Shady Tree or the Spang brothers. Bond disregards these orders, however, because he does not believe his contact with Shady Tree will put his life in danger. Bond proves to be correct about this. However, when Bond meets Seraffimo Spang it is a totally different story.



Objects/Places

Q Department

The Q department of the English Secret Service is a department that specializes in spy technology.

Bond's Attache Case

Bond has an attaché case that is designed by the Q department. This attaché case has his gun's silencer hidden inside. Bond uses the silencer when he saves Tiffany from Wint and Kidd.

Berretta

The berretta is Bond's gun of choice.

Spangled Gang

The Spangled Gang is a mob group headed by Seraffimo Spang and his brother. It is this gang that is running the diamond smuggling operation that Bond is attempting to stop.

Diamonds

Bond infiltrates a diamond smuggling group and becomes one of their smugglers in an attempt to find out who the bosses are.

Studillac

Leiter drives a car with a Studebaker body and a Cadillac engine, called a Studillac. Leiter considers his car the most powerful sports car available at the time.

Black Jack Table

When Shy Smile is disqualified from his race, Bond is instructed to go to Vegas and play at a specific black jack table at a specific time in order to win his payment for smuggling the diamonds. When Bond arrives he is pleased to see Tiffany Case is the dealer.



Roulette

Bond disobeys his orders by taking his earnings from the black jack table and playing roulette. Bond wins twenty thousand dollars.

Shy Smile

Shy Smile is the horse Bond is to bet on in order to get his payment for smuggling the diamonds into the United States. Shy Smile is owned by Seraffimo Spang.

Tiara

Tiara is the name of a hotel and casino in Vegas owned by Spang.

Mud Baths

Bond goes to the mud baths in Saratoga Springs to pay off the jockey for Leiter after the horse race. However, before Bond can make contact, the jockey is attacked by two of Spang's men.

Saratoga Springs

Saratoga Springs is a small resort town where there are horse races every August. Bond goes here to win the money he is owed for smuggling diamonds.

Las Vegas

Bond travels to Las Vegas in order to win the money owed to him at the black jack tables. It is here that Bond runs afoul of Serffimo Spang and nearly dies as a result.



Themes

Danger

Bond's life consists of endless situations in which he may find himself in danger. Bond goes undercover in countries all over the world, tracking bad guys and finding ways to stop criminal behavior. In this novel, Bond comes to America in order to stop a diamond smuggling ring. He wants to work his way up the ladder of the organization in order to find the people responsible. However, Bond becomes impatient waiting for the organization to trust him and begins breaking their rules in order to encourage them to come to him faster. This strategy works, causing the mobsters to bring him in and torture him in an attempt to find out who he really is and why he has come to work with them.

Bond is beaten and chased down a railroad track by the leader of the Spangled Gang. This is the height of danger for Bond and Tiffany Case. Bond handles himself with dignity and intelligence despite being in a great deal of pain due to the beating received at the hands of Spang's men. Bond hears Spang's train coming up behind him and decides to move the lever on the track in order to steer the train onto a side track. As the train goes by, Bond shoots at Spang, killing him in the control room of the engine. The train crashes when it fails to make a turn further down the track. Bond then walks two miles in a mental fog to the road to get help.

Danger is a theme of the novel because Bond's life is in constant danger. Bond is a spy for a special division of the English intelligence service. The nature of Bond's job leaves him in danger on a constant basis. In fact, Bond is given the special code of double zero that allows him to kill if he finds it necessary. In this novel in order to protect himself or someone else from death Bond kills six people. Every death is justified, but it illustrates the extreme danger of Bond's career and makes danger a theme of the novel.

Friendship

When Bond arrives in New York he runs into an old friend he worked with once before, Felix Leiter. Bond and Leiter worked on another case together that left Leiter injured and unable to return to his job with the CIA. Leiter now works for Pinkerton Investigation Agency as a private detective. Leiter is also working on a case that also involves the Spangled Gang, so he is able to fill Bond in on background information that he might not otherwise have had access to. Not only this, but Leiter accompanies Bond to Saratoga Springs when he goes there to place a bet on the Spangled Gang's horse, Shy Smile. If not for Leiter, Bond might not have known a few important things about the gang that helped him take them down.

Later, when Bond goes to Vegas, he meets another Pinkerton man named Cureo. Cureo is working as a cab driver as a cover in order to investigate the gangs working in



Vegas. When Bond arrives in Vegas, it is Cureo who picks him up at the airport. Cureo tells Bond to hire him for exclusive use while in the city so that he can stay close to Bond and help him with the Spangled Gang. Bond does. When Cureo drives Bond around the city and notices a tail, he becomes aggressive toward them, causing one both cars to become disabled. However, Cureo is shot in the process. Bond considers Cureo his friend and trusts him completely throughout his time in Vegas. Cureo's injury concerns Bond, but when Spang's men take him in, he is unable to do anything about.

Bond also befriends the girl hired to escort Bond and the diamonds into America. This girl, Tiffany Case, is an employee of Spang's who takes the diamond runs for the extra money. Tiffany is a damaged young woman who trusts no one, making her ideal for the job, but difficult to get to know. Bond manages to get to know her, however, even falling in love with her as they escape danger together. Bond relies on Tiffany to help him in the end even though she is an employee of Spang's and could possibly be using Bond to help Spang. This never crosses Bond's mind, proving his ability to read a person's true intentions and the level of naivety he works under despite his dangerous job. It is this level of trust within Bond that makes friendship an important theme of the novel as well as the level of assistance each of these friends prove to be for Bond.

Commitment

Bond is fully committed to his job because he loves the excitement of it. Whenever Bond is relegated to a desk he is bored and unhappy. However, when Bond is out in the field fighting the bad guys and running toward danger, he is extremely happy. Bond can imagine nothing better in life than fighting crime in the name of his government. In fact, when this novel opens, Bond is told not to engage in the assignment if he believes he will be in contact with a man named Shady Tree. It is Shady Tree that Bond knows he is to meet when he arrives in New York, but he decides to disregard his orders and go anyway, knowing that he is the only hope England has of finding out who is behind the diamond smuggling ring. This illustrates Bond's level of commitment to his job.

When the novel is winding down and Bond is alone with Tiffany Case, he begins to realize how deep his feelings for her go. Bond is falling in love with Tiffany. However, Bond knows that for him to make a commitment to her, he would have to give up his job. Bond is honest with Tiffany and tells her that he would not marry or have children while still employed with the service because it would be unfair both to his wife and the children. However, Bond is so deeply in love with Tiffany that he begins to think that she might make the perfect wife for him. This causes Bond to consider leaving his job. Before Bond can make a decision, however, he is forced to save Tiffany from the Spangled Gang's hit men. The reader is left without this decision being made, but Bond's history seems to suggest in the end he will chose his job before love.

Style

Point of View

The point of view of this novel is third person omniscient. The author tells his story from Bond's point of view, showing the reader not only Bond's actions and those of the characters around him, but also letting the reader in on Bond's thoughts and emotions. The author also, from time to time, moves into a more objective tone. The author begins the novel by describing the death of a naive scorpion in the middle of the African desert. This scene is completely abstract and random, but it slowly transitions into another scene that in effect brings the lens of the author's camera back to show the larger picture that is the initial scene of the novel. There is also a point in which the author enters the mind of another character in order to show a scene in which Bond has no connection.

The point of view of this novel is successful because it keeps the reader close to Bond. Bond is the main character and the plot of the story revolves around his activities, so it is important for the reader to build an emotional attachment to him. This is achieved by keeping the narration close to Bond throughout the novel except in the rare instances when Bond is not present for a scene that is important to the development of the plot. This point of view works in a way that another point of view, say a third person point of view with another character as the narrator, would not have developed the attachment to Bond that is so important in this novel.

Setting

The novel begins in London, but quickly moves to New York. Bond finds himself in a foreign country and in a city that is strange in its customs and its language. Bond must adjust to this new place, first in New York City where even the food is given names Bond does not recognize, and then in Saratoga Springs among the elite and the desperately ill come to soak in mud baths as a last resort cure. Bond does not blend very well in these locations, not just because he speaks with an English accent that is more refined and unique to his country of birth, but also by the way he dresses and manner in which he behaves. However, blending in with the Americans is not important to Bond's mission and therefore is simply background matter to the novel's developing plot.

The novel moves from New York to Vegas in the latter part of the novel. This setting is important because the novel was written at a time when the mobs ran Vegas. Vegas was a dangerous place where criminals were making a great deal of money and everyone else became victims of their greed. It is an important setting because it is a mob of this type that Bond is looking to destroy. Everyone knows stories like that of Bugsy Segal. It is in the aftermath of this story that Bond comes to Vegas in order to meet the leader of the Spangled Gang and bring him down. The setting of Vegas gives



the plot a feeling of danger and it adds to the tension that the developing plot depends on to bring the reader fully into the story.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is precise English. Much of the exposition is written in proper English with few contractions or slang, expressing Bond's actions and thoughts in the proper language of his home country. The dialogue also has few contractions when Bond speaks. However, when Bond arrives in America, slang and contractions become a part of the dialogue of the people Bond runs into in the course of his investigations. This change of language keeps the feel of the novel real as well as making the dialogue authentic.

The language of this novel works because it makes the characters feel authentic. Bond is an Englishman, born and raised in England, and the reader expects his speech, as well as his thoughts, to be expressed in proper English with the use of some English slang. Although the novel uses very little slang, it still portrays Bond's native language by refraining from the use of contractions or other language techniques that Americans use in their daily language. However, the author does use a few of these Americanized techniques when writing dialogue that is spoken by an American, again giving the novel a sense of authenticity.

Structure

The novel is divided into twenty-five chapters. Each chapter is about ten pages long and covers a specific scene or event introduced to the reader through the chapter's title. The chapters are divided by paragraph breaks that introduce a change in location. This makes it easier for the reader to adjust to movement without having to be given detailed information on these movements. The novel is written with heavy reliance on both exposition and dialogue, telling the story with lots of scenes rather than through direct story telling.

The novel contains one main plot line and one subplot. The main plot follows Bond as he infiltrates an American mob in order to find out who is smuggling diamonds out of Africa. Bond successfully smuggles diamonds into New York and then lets it be known that he would like to join the Spangler Gang. Bond is given instructions on how to collect his money and then told that he might be given another job if he can follow the rules. Bond does not follow the rules in an attempt to flush out the gang leaders quickly. By doing this, Bond places himself in danger, but is rescued when Tiffany Case helps him escape. The subplot is that of the love story between Bond and Tiffany Case. Tiffany is a damaged young lady who is afraid to trust men. However, Bond manages to win her trust and they become lovers at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"He thought with pleasure of the In-tray piled with Top Secret dockets he had gladly abandoned when the red telephone had summoned him an hour before. He felt fairly confident that now he wouldn't have to deal with them." Chapter 2, Gem Quality, pg. 12

"It was the Chief of Staff's job to know most of what went on in M's mind."
Chapter 3, Hot Ice, pg. 17

"She was sitting half naked, astride a chair in front of the dressing table, gazing across the back of the chair into the triple mirror. Her bare arms were folded along the tall back of the chair and her chin was resting on her arms. Her spine was arched and there was arrogance in the set of her head and shoulders. The thin black strap of her brassiere across the naked white back, the tight black lace pants and the angled thrust of her legs whipped at Bond's senses."

Chapter 5, "Feuilles-Mortes", pgs. 30-31

"To him this plane is nothing but a giant tube full of anonymous deadweight, supported in the air by a handful of sparking plugs and guided to its destination by a scrap of electricity. He has no faith in it and no faith in safety statistics. He is suffering the same fears he had as a small child—the fear of noise and the fear of falling. He won't even dare to go to the lavatory for fear he'll put his foot through the floor of the plane when he stands up."

Chapter 6, In Transit, pg. 46

"The first thing that struck Bond about Saratoga was the green majesty of the elms, which gave the discreet avenues of colonial type clapboard houses some of the peace and serenity of a European watering place." Chapter 11, Shy Smile, pg. 82

"It had been fun watching Leiter push these people around. Now it was his turn."
Chapter 12, The Perpetuities, pg. 96

"Since a telephone breakdown in America is a rare thing, this was the moment when a small danger signal might have shrilled in Bond's mind. But it didn't. Instead he looked at the clock. Another ten minutes to go." Chapter 13, Acme Mud and Sulphur, pg. 104

"Bond caught a glimpse of endless miles of palm-lined avenues, of sprinklers whirling over emerald lawns in front of palatial homes, of sprawling aircraft factories, of the outside lots of film studios with their jumble of gimcrack sets—city streets, Western ranches, racing tracks, a full size four-masted schooner planted in the ground—and then they were in the mountains and through them over the interminable red desert that



is the back yard of Southern California."
Chapter 15, Rue De La Pay, pg. 119

"The first thing he noticed was that Las Vegas seemed to have invented a new school of functional architecture which he dubbed the Gilded Mousetrap School, its main purpose being to channel the customer-mouse into the central gambling trap whether he wanted the cheese or not." Chapter 16, The Tiara, pg. 127

"The two hooded men came up and sat down side by side on a dark red chaise longue that ran down the car opposite Bond. They put down football boots besides them and started to unlace their shoes." Chapter 19, Spectreville, pg. 158

"And the eyes of the man whose Blood Group had been F spoke to him and said: 'Mister, nothing is forever. Only death is permanent. Nothing is forever except what you did to me.'"
Chapter 24, Death is so Permanent, pg. 204

"So this great red full stop marked the end of the Spangled Mob and the end of their fabulous traffic in diamonds. But not the end of the diamonds that were baking at the heart of the fire. They would survive and move off again across the world, indestructible, as permanent as death.
And Bond suddenly remembered the eyes of the corpse which had once had a Blood Group F. They had been wrong. Death is forever. But so are diamonds."
Chapter 25, The Pipe Line Closes, pg. 215

Topics for Discussion

Who is smuggling the diamonds? What does it have to do with the English government? Why is Bond given the case? Why does Bond have to learn how to recognize a valuable diamond? How does Bond plan on finding the culprits behind the diamond smuggling ring?

Why is M afraid of the American mobsters? How does the time period of the novel affect this fear? What was going on in Las Vegas around the time the novel was written? Do these events have an impact on the overall tension of the novel? If so, how?

Who is Rufus B. Saye? What is his connection to the smuggling ring? Why does Saye not know the names of valuable diamonds? What is the point in Vallance's man discovering this fact? Does Bond learn something of value in this meeting with Saye? What does Bond learn? Does this information help Bond later in the plot development?

Who is Tiffany Case? What happened to Tiffany when she was a young girl? How did this violence affect Tiffany later in her life? Is Tiffany Spang's girl? If not, why does he continue to keep her around? Is Tiffany a tease? Do you think Bond is in love with Tiffany? Do you think Bond would leave the service for Tiffany? Why or why not?

Why does the mob kill the original Shy Smile and replace him with another horse? Is this illegal? What will happen if Leiter can prove this has happened? Who is left at the end of the novel to be punished for this? Who do you think is Leiter's client? What would this client gain if Leiter can prove the deceit?

Who is Winter and Kitteridge? Why were they on the plane from London to New York? Why does it take Bond so long to realize who they are when he sees them on the ship? How would the story have changed had Bond made this connection sooner? Why does Bond kill them? Could Bond have saved Tiffany any other way? Why make the deaths look like a murder suicide? Could Bond be arrested for murder?

Why does Bond feel regret when Jack Spang is killed? Why does Bond shoot at the helicopter if he does not want Spang killed? What is Bond after when he walks toward the crash site after everyone else is asleep? Does Bond want the diamonds? What does he plan to do with them? What would you do with them?