

Doctor No Study Guide

Doctor No by Ian Fleming

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Plot Summary

Doctor No by Ian Fleming is a James Bond novel. This novel begins where the last left off, with James Bond recovering from poison injected into his shin by a Russian SMERSH officer. M is concerned that Bond is not up to returning to his job so he sends him to Jamaica on what he believes will be an easy assignment. However, the assignment proves to be one of the most difficult Bond has ever encountered, both physically and mentally. Doctor No is a novel that will push Bond to his limits and will prove highly entertaining for both die-hard fans and readers new to the Bond saga.

M calls Bond into his office and tells him that he is concerned with his ability to return to the job after allowing himself to be injured by a Russian SMERSH officer. M announces that he expects Bond to change weapons, since his small Berretta proved to be ineffective in his struggle with the Russian. After a new weapon is chosen, M sends Bond to Jamaica to find out what happened to a Secret Service agent there who is reported to have run off with his secretary. M believes that this is exactly what has happened and that the assignment will essentially be a vacation in the sun for Bond.

When Bond arrives in Jamaica, strange things begin to happen that warn him that this is not going to be a vacation. First, a young woman meets him at the airport and takes his picture, making Bond feel that someone has been made aware of his arrival and has sent this girl as a sort of recognizance. Later Bond finds someone has sent fruit to his room, but all the fruit has signs of having been tampered with. Upon laboratory examination, Bond learns that every piece of fruit in the basket has been poisoned. Finally, Bond finds a centipede in his bed that could only have gotten there by human hand.

Bond teams up with an old friend and begins to train for what he believes will be a simple spying trip to an island called Crab Key. The missing Secret Service agent was investigating the deaths of two men on Crab Key when he disappeared, so Bond believes that the mysterious man who bought Crab Key many years before, Doctor No, might be behind the agent's disappearance. Bond plans to go to Crab Key and gather intelligence that will enable him to return and arrest Doctor No. However, before Bond has been on the island a few short hours, Doctor No's men are alerted to his presence thanks to a young Jamaican girl who sailed to the island in order to hunt seashells.

Bond, his friend, and the girl manage to evade Doctor No's men for the better part of a day. However, when the men infiltrate their camp in a vehicle made to resemble a dragon, Bond can no longer fend them off. Bond and the girl are taken to Doctor No's camp that has been built inside a mountain. Bond and the girl are treated like guests in an expensive spa, given food and a bed. However, the food was full of drugs and Bond and the girl spend the day sleeping off their effects. That night, Bond and the girl go to Doctor No's private study for dinner. Doctor No treats them like guests, offering them good food and all the drink they could want. However, Doctor No makes it clear that he intends to have them killed at the end of the meal in order to prove his power over humanity.



Bond is taken into a room where he is told that he must participate in an endurance course. Bond finds the entrance to this course is a grate in the wall that leads through massive amounts of ductwork. Bond makes his way through despite searing heat and bruising passages, only to find himself deposited into a small pond. Bond manages to climb partially out of the pond. However, living in the pond is a giant squid. The squid attacks Bond, intent on eating him, but Bond manages to injure the creature and get away. Bond quickly makes his way toward the sounds of civilization and takes the opportunity handed him to kill Doctor No. Bond then finds the girl and escapes to the mainland of Jamaica.



Chapter 1, Hear You Loud and Clear

Chapter 1, Hear You Loud and Clear Summary

Doctor No by Ian Fleming is a James Bond novel. This novel begins where the last left off, with James Bond recovering from poison injected into his shin by a Russian SMERSH officer. M is concerned that Bond is not up to returning to his job so he sends him to Jamaica on what he believes will be an easy assignment. However, the assignment proves to be one of the most difficult Bond has ever encountered, both physically and mentally. Doctor No is a novel that will push Bond to his limits and will prove highly entertaining for both diehard fans and readers new to the Bond saga.

Strangeways, an agent for the British Secret Service, leaves a poker game in an exclusive club in Kingston, Jamaica in order to receive a radio call from headquarters. This is a routine Strangeways has followed for a long while, a predictable bit of behavior that both Strangeways friends and enemies are aware of. As Strangeways makes his way out of the building to his car, his secretary is across town warming up the radio and attempting to make contact, as is also part of the routine. Neither expects any trouble, as they have not had any serious cases on their desk in weeks. The only case Strangeways has been assigned recently is one involving a bird sanctuary on a nearby island. Strangeways has made some headway on the case that he intends to report during his call tonight, but it is nothing that appears to be of a serious nature. However, as Strangeways approaches his car he finds his way blocked by a group of blind, homeless men. Strangeways digs in his pocket for some change to give these men. Before Strangeways can find his change, he is shot several times and dragged into the back of a van.

Mary Trueblood, Strangeways' secretary, is becoming concerned. Strangeways is late. Strangeways has never been late. Trueblood wonders what she should do. Trueblood does not want to lose the contact with the office in London because she knows this will set in motion another set of calls that could get Strangeways in trouble, but she also knows that if she attempts to speak to whoever is on the other end it could cause the connection to be severed. Before Trueblood can decide what to do, she hears a noise outside the door. Thinking it is Strangeways, Trueblood is relieved. However, it is not Strangeways, but a man she does not know. Trueblood is also shot. The man opens the safe and piles the papers within it out on the floor before lighting the office on fire. Then the man takes Trueblood's body and puts it inside a coffin with Strangeways body. The coffin is then driven to the Mona Reservoir where it is thrown into the water.

Chapter 1, Hear You Loud and Clear Analysis

Strangeways is a man of routine and it is this habit that counts against him in this chapter. Someone knows Strangeways habit of leaving his poker game in order to receive a phone call from his headquarters in London. Even though Strangeways does



not believe he is currently working on an important case, someone else clearly does. Strangeways' case is something to do with birds on a nearby island. Strangeways has made some headway on the case and is ready to report his findings to headquarters. However, before he can do so, Strangeways is killed by three men who appear to be blind and homeless. Back at his office, Strangeways' secretary is also killed and his office is burned.

The reader takes the information of the case Strangeways is working on and wonders if it has something to do with his death. Perhaps it is unrelated, but it seems more than coincidental that he is killed moments before he intends to report his findings on the case. Not only this, but his secretary is also killed, suggesting that she might know something the killers want kept secret. The office too is burned, telling the reader that the killers fear something in Strangeways' files could reveal something they do not want revealed. All of this sets up an interesting scenario that will most likely be expanded upon in the following chapters.



Chapter 2, Choice of Weapons

Chapter 2, Choice of Weapons Summary

M arrives at the office in the middle of a terrible rainstorm and immediately makes a phone call to a doctor at a local hospital. This doctor treated Bond during his recuperation from a poisoning that happened at the end of his last case and M wants to know if the doctor believes Bond is ready to go back to work. The doctor suggests that Bond might be on the edge of burnout, but otherwise clears him to return to work. M then calls Bond into his office. M makes it clear to Bond that he is not happy that Bond got himself hurt in a situation that should have been kept under control. M also suggests that it might have been Bond's choice of weapons, a small Beretta, that could have contributed to his vulnerability in the situation with the Russian SMERSH officer. Bond disagrees, but M insists that he chose another weapon if he wants to continue working for the service.

The weapons expert comes into the room and suggests two weapons to Bond, the Walther PPK 7.65mm and the Smith and Wesson Centennial Revolver .38 caliber. The expert also suggests a new holster for Bond to carry his weapon in. Bond is unhappy with all the suggestions. Bond is highly attached to his Beretta and does not feel that he needs a new weapon. However, M makes it clear that Bond must choose a new weapon or take a desk job, so Bond accepts the situation.

Chapter 2, Choice of Weapons Analysis

Bond was injured at the end of the previous novel, *From Russia, With Love*, when the SMERSH agent kicked him in the shin with a hidden knife that was tipped in poison. Bond nearly died, but was saved thanks to the quick thinking of the French man who was making the arrest with him. However, now M is concerned that Bond is no longer up to the task of being an agent for the British Secret Service. M speaks with Bond's doctor before deciding to send him on a new mission. However, before telling Bond about his new assignment, he demands that Bond accept the use of a new weapon.

M is of the opinion that Bond's weapon of choice, a small .25 caliber Beretta, is partially to blame for his injuries. M brings in a weapons expert and has him offer Bond several choice weapons that are larger and more likely to inflict injury should Bond again find himself in a similar situation as the one in which he was injured. Bond does not like the idea. Bond has used the Beretta all the years he has been with the service and in his opinion, it has never let him down. However, M makes it quite clear that Bond will take a new weapon or he will not be sent into the field again. Bond agrees. This episode is important for the reader because it introduces a new tension between Bond and M that has never been present in previous novels. Not only this, but it presents Bond as a man who is vulnerable, another idea that is new to these novels. Finally, it changes the weapon that Bond will go into conflict with, setting up a situation in which Bond might

not be fully protected due to his unfamiliarity with the weapon, again setting him up to be vulnerable.



Chapter 3, Holiday Task

Chapter 3, Holiday Task Summary

M then calls in the Chief of Staff and begins to tell Bond about a new assignment he would like him to take. It seems that one of their agents in Jamaica has disappeared. The local authorities believe that Strangeways has taken off with his secretary and that they will reappear in time. Bond, who was friends with Strangeways, confirms that this might be possible, though he seriously doubts that Strangeways would walk away from his responsibilities like that. Bond asks what Strangeways' last case was. The Chief of Staff tells Bond that the only case Strangeways had been working on recently was a case involving a bird sanctuary on a nearby island. There were some rare birds on an island called Crab Key that the Audubon Society in New York had taken an interest in. They had set up a camp on Crab Key in order to watch these birds. However, several weeks before Strangeways disappearance, the men living in this camp arrived in Jamaica, one man dead and the other mortally wounded. The wounded man claimed that their camp had been attacked by a dragon that burned everything to oblivion. When a plane was sent to investigate these claims, it crashed.

The island is a source of guano and has been owned by a man named Doctor No since before the war. Doctor No claimed the plane had been flying too fast when it attempted to land. Doctor No allowed another group of investigators on the island and showed them around. The investigation concluded that the death of the bird watcher had been caused by madness that descended on the two men due to boredom and isolation. However, the Audubon Society continues to make a fuss over the loss of these men and has insisted the service look into the case. The service assigned the case to Strangeways more to appease the Audubon Society rather than out of a concern that anything criminal had taken place.

Now, Strangeways' disappearance has complicated the situation. M tells Bond that he feels that Strangeways has simply run off with the girl and that this case has nothing to do with anything. M feels that Bond's going to Jamaica is going to be more of a holiday than anything else, making Bond angry at M's sudden lack of confidence in him. However, Bond accepts the case just the same.

Chapter 3, Holiday Task Analysis

Bond learns that his new case has something to do with Strangeways, the agent working in Jamaica. The reader learns that Strangeways and Bond are friends. Bond knows Strangeways well enough that he is not surprised to learn that the man has been accused of running off with a pretty woman. However, Bond also knows him well enough to realize that he would not leave his responsibilities in such a way. Bond is concerned about Strangeways in a way that M and the Chief of Staff apparently are not. M believes the local authorities in their assessment that Strangeways has simply run off



and thinks that by sending Bond to investigate this disappearance, he is sending him on a vacation. Bond is offended by this implication, more offended by the idea that he might need a vacation than the offense this way of thinking places on Strangeways' reputation.

The reader learns more about Strangeways' last case in this chapter. The case involves a group of birds that are being protected and observed by the Audubon Society in New York. The two men who made camp where these birds live have been killed by what one of the men insists was a dragon. Since dragons no longer exist, making this possibility unlikely, the Secret Service has chosen to believe the local authorities who think the two men were killed when one of them went mad due to boredom and isolation. However, the service assigned Strangeways to investigate anyway in order to appease the Audubon Society.

Despite Strangeways disappearance, M still believes the case is solved and inconsequential to the current situation. Bond is being sent to find Strangeways, not to investigate the Audubon case. The reader, though, must realize this bird case has everything to do with Strangeways' disappearance and that Bond will soon be mixed up in the case, despite M's insistence that he is sending Bond on what will essentially be a vacation in the sun.



Chapter 4, Reception Committee

Chapter 4, Reception Committee Summary

Bond arrives in Jamaica and is met at the airport by an old friend, Quarrel. As Bond and Quarrel make their way out of the airport, Bond's picture is taken by a young woman who says she works for the local paper, the Daily Gleaner. When the woman begins asking Bond questions, such as where he is staying, he becomes suspicious that she is working for someone other than the paper. Bond and Quarrel get into their car, which turns out to be Strangeways car, and make their way into town. Bond immediately begins to suspect they are being followed. Bond has Quarrel pull over and turn out the lights in order to lose their tail.

Quarrel takes Bond to his hotel where he relaxes before meeting Quarrel again for dinner. Over dinner, Bond asks Quarrel what he knows about Crab Key, the island where the Audubon Society's birds live. Quarrel is clearly uncomfortable with the subject, telling Bond how his fishermen friends stay far from that island because the few who came close to it were never seen again. The island, Quarrel tells him, is owned by a private gentleman who employs many watchmen who are heavily armed. Outsiders are not welcome on the island. As Bond and Quarrel discuss this island, the woman from the airport appears. Bond instructs Quarrel to attempt to find out who the girl works for, but despite a great deal of pain inflicted upon her, the girl refuses to say. Bond orders Quarrel to let her go.

Chapter 4, Reception Committee Analysis

Upon Bond's arrival in Jamaica, he immediately finds himself under surveillance. Bond does not know who it is that is watching him, but suspects it is the man who owns the island that was the center of Strangeways' last case. A young lady takes Bond's picture at the airport and then shows up again while he is having dinner with his friend Quarrel. Bond tries to find out who the girl works for by having his friend exert pain on her, but it does not work. Whoever the girl works for is a man she fears much more than any pain Bond can have inflicted on her. This idea concerns Bond, proving to him that he is up against a strong adversary despite M's insistence that this case will be a vacation in the sun.

Bond's friend, Quarrel, is a large man from the Cayman Islands. Bond has worked with Quarrel in the past and trusts him without reserve. When Quarrel talks about Crab Key, Bond can see that he is frightened of the place. Bond finds this fear of Quarrel's concerning because he has never known Quarrel to show fear before. Also, Quarrel's information that Crab Key is heavily protected by watchmen with weapons makes Bond think that something other than mining guano is happening on the island. All of this information is beginning to create a picture in which Strangeways' disappearance is not

as simple as a young man running off with a pretty girl. Bond does not believe any longer that this case is as simple as M has insisted it is.



Chapter 5, Facts and Figures

Chapter 5, Facts and Figures Summary

Bond is beginning to think there is much more to this Doctor No than he originally thought and that Strangeways was killed because of his investigation of Doctor No's island. Bond decides he must take precautions to insure he will not end up like Strangeways. When Quarrel arrives at his hotel that morning, Bond instructs him to rent them a house out in an isolated section of the island. Then Bond tells Quarrel to find two men who look like himself and Bond and hire them to drive Strangeways' car toward Montego. Bond instructs Quarrel to be careful he is not followed while doing these errands.

Bond spends the day at the King's House in order to speak with the acting governor. The acting governor is an uncooperative fellow who believes that Bond is working on a case that his own police have already solved. Bond is careful not to offend the governor, though he does not like the man and feels his dismissal of Strangeways is offensive. Bond requests a meeting with the Colonial Secretary in order to review the documents pertaining to the sale of Crab Key. The governor quickly arranges the meeting. Bond finds the Colonial Secretary, Pleydell-Smith, a much more agreeable man. Pleydell-Smith tells Bond how Doctor No bought Crab Key before the war in order to cash in on the guano reserves there. When Bond asks to see the files on Crab Key, however, Pleydell-Smith learns that the files are missing.

Chapter 5, Facts and Figures Analysis

Bond feels as though he might be in danger due to the events of the prior day. Bond instructs Quarrel to get rid of Strangeways' car by sending two other fellows who look like them to Montego with the car. This is a ruse clearly intended to make whoever is following Bond think that he has left town. Then Quarrel is to rent himself and Bond a house on the opposite side of the island. Bond hopes this will get the bad guys off his back long enough for him to prepare for the investigation that is ahead of him.

Bond then speaks to the governor and finds him uncooperative. The governor believes his investigators and their conclusion that Strangeways has run away with his secretary. Bond no longer believes this is a possibility, however, so the meeting is not productive. Bond requests a meeting with the Colonial Secretary, hoping to learn more about Doctor No and Crab Key in his records. However, after meeting the secretary and finding him a likely ally, Bond learns that the files are missing. This is a suspicious turn of events that only increase Bond's suspicions that Doctor No has agents all over the island who are one step ahead of Bond.



Chapter 6, The Finger on the Trigger

Chapter 6, The Finger on the Trigger Summary

Bond goes to lunch with Pleydell-Smith where he warns him that his secretary is more than likely an agent of Doctor No's. Afterward, Bond goes to the Institute in order to look at a map of Crab Key. There is little to the map since the island is made up mostly of a large mountain of rock. Bond memorizes what he can and leaves. Bond then returns to his room where he finds that a messenger has delivered a basket of fruit to his room. Bond is immediately suspicious and quickly checks his room for bugs and his weapon for any kind of tampering. When Bond finds everything as it should be, he begins to take a closer look at the fruit. Within minutes, Bond finds puncture marks on all the fruit. Bond packages the fruit up and sends it to Pleydell-Smith with the request that he have a lab inspect the fruit for poison.

Quarrel comes by Bond's hotel room and tells him that he has completed all the errands Bond asked him to do earlier. Bond and Quarrel arrange to meet early the next morning in order to make the trip to their new rent house. Bond spends the evening packing before going to bed. In the middle of the night, Bond wakes. Bond had locked everything up in the room before going to sleep to keep intruders out. However, there is an intruder in his bed that he had not expected. There is a poisonous centipede crawling on Bond's ankle. Bond lays very still as the centipede makes its way up his body, finally crawling off Bond's head onto his pillow. Bond jumps out of bed and kills the insect before throwing up from the intense fear he felt while waiting for the bug to either crawl away or bite him.

Chapter 6, The Finger on the Trigger Analysis

Bond looks at a map of Crab Key and memorizes all he can. This action makes the reader begin to think that Bond intends to go to Crab Key very soon. Then Bond returns to his room where he finds that a messenger has delivered a basket of fruit. Bond is immediately suspicious despite a card that claims the basket is from the governor. After checking his room for signs of tampering, Bond checks out the fruit. Bond can see puncture marks on the fruit and thinks it may have been poisoned. Bond sends it to Pleydell-Smith to find out for sure. Now Bond knows that he has upset someone dangerous.

Bond and Quarrel arrange to leave for their rent house the next morning. Bond goes to bed after first taking the precaution of locking down his room to keep out intruders. However, Bond wakes in the middle of the night and finds that there is a centipede in his bed. Bond knows these insects are highly poisonous and after his recent experience with poison, his terribly afraid. Bond lies still while the centipede makes its way over his entire body before climbing onto his pillow. Bond kills the insect, but this does little to make the fear go away. Bond shows his vulnerability once more by throwing up in

reaction to the experience. The reader sees this vulnerability and fear, forcing them to see Bond as a person capable of death where in previous novels Bond might have appeared to be almost invincible. It is a new look at Bond, one that will color the way the reader views Bond's struggle later in the novel.



Chapter 7, Night Passage; Chapter 8, The Elegant Venus

Chapter 7, Night Passage; Chapter 8, The Elegant Venus Summary

Bond and Quarrel spend a week at their rent house where Quarrel helps Bond get back into shape. While there, Bond learns that the fruit did indeed have poison in it. Not only this, but Bond also learns that the car that he had sent to Montego was run off the road, its two passengers killed. Now there is no doubt that someone wants Bond killed. At the end of the week, Bond and Quarrel take a small canoe to Crab Key in the middle of the night, taking precautions not to be seen either by the watchmen or the radar Bond suspects Doctor No has. Once they arrive, Bond and Quarrel hide the boat and find hiding places to sleep.

When Bond wakes the next morning, he finds himself staring at a naked woman on the beach. Bond watches the girl investigate a handful of shells in her hand before he decides to make his presence known. Bond asks the girl how she came to be on the island. The girl says that she came by boat. Bond knows this means the Doctor No must know they are there since he would have picked the girl up on radar. The girl, Honeychile Rider, tells Bond that she comes to the island often in order to look for shells that she then sells to a buyer in Miami. Honey tells Bond that she has run into the watchmen on the island a few times, but she is always able to get away. Honey even says that she has seen a dragon on the island. Before Bond can learn any more, however, Quarrel tells them that the watchmen are coming.

Chapter 7, Night Passage; Chapter 8, The Elegant Venus Analysis

Bond learns that not only did the fruit really contain poison, but that the car he sent in the opposite direction from him and Quarrel was involved in a fatal crash. Now there is little doubt that Bond is in danger. This case is looking less and less like a vacation and more like something very dangerous. Bond gets himself into shape and then he and Quarrel make their way to Crab Key. Upon arrival, they are careful to make sure Doctor No cannot pick them up on radar. They then hide all traces of their arrival and lay down to sleep. However, it soon proves that their precautions were for nothing.

When Bond wakes the next morning, he finds that a young woman, Honeychile Rider, has arrived on the island behind himself and Quarrel. Honey is there salvaging seashells in order to sell to a buyer in Miami. However, by arriving on their heels like she did, Honey has allowed Doctor No to become aware of Bond's arrival. Bond is now in danger of being found on the island. As Bond speaks with Honey, learning as much

about her and the island as he can, including her insistence that she has seen a dragon, a group of watchmen make their way toward Bond's camp. The reader is now anxious to read the next chapter and find out how Bond gets away this time, if he does.



Chapter 9, Close Shaves

Chapter 9, Close Shaves Summary

Quarrel and Bond quickly hide all traces of their presence from the beach and then find quick hiding places. Bond and Honey hide under a bush between some rocks. Bond instructs Honey to dig down into the sand as deeply as she can. Within minutes, they can hear the noise of a diesel engine. Soon a boat appears at the mouth of the river, with two men standing on the deck along with a machine gun. The boat stops in full view of Bond. At first, it seems that the boat will continue on. However, the two men see Honey's boat and begin to fire the gun at it. Then one of the men speaks on a loudhailer, warning them to come out. When they do not, the men fire on the beach and the vegetation beyond, destroying the bush under which Bond and Honey are hiding.

When the shooting ended, the voice on the loudhailer promised that they would be back with dogs. Bond and Honey could then hear the sound of the boat moving away. After a time, Bond sat up and found they were once again alone on the beach. Bond reassured Honey before going in search of Quarrel. Bond and Quarrel decide they must move on and finish their investigation before returning to Jamaica. Honey tells them where the camp that the Audubon Society men were living in can be found, so after hiding their boat, the three begin to walk up the river. After a time they can hear the watchmen returning with the dogs. Honey suggests they hide under the water with shoots of bamboo to breathe through. Bond finds a place hidden in the bushes and leads Quarrel there moments before the dogs approach.

Chapter 9, Close Shaves Analysis

Bond and Honey hide from the approaching men together under a bush. Bond protects the girl as much as he can, helping her bury herself deep in the sand. Bond watches the men as they approach the small beach on a large boat. Bond can see what their intentions are when he sees the large machine gun they have mounted on the boat. When one of the men points to the place where Bond and Quarrel hid Honey's boat, Bond knows that they are going to fire their gun so he advises Honey to move even deeper into the sand. Bond is right and the men do fire, nearly destroying the bush under which he and Honey are hiding. However, there is enough debris that the men still cannot see them. Bond and Honey are safe and the bad men move away.

Bond finds Quarrel and it is decided that they will continue with their initial plan and try to make their way to the camp of the bird watchers. Honey knows how to get there, so they begin hiking in the river in order to leave few tracks. Before long, Quarrel can hear an approaching engine. Honey suggests that they hide in the water, using bamboo to breathe through. Bond finds a place in the river that is hidden by vegetation and he leads his group there where they wait until they can hear the dogs approaching. The

next chapter will reveal if they are caught or not, building some tension for the reader who is curious what will happen when the dogs arrive.



Chapter 10, Dragon Spoor; Chapter 11, Admist the Alien Cane

Chapter 10, Dragon Spoor; Chapter 11, Admist the Alien Cane Summary

Bond, Honey and Quarrel hide at the bottom of the river with only the bamboo visible on the water's surface. Two men come by and investigate the small area, but they do not see anything suspicious and continue on. After a short time, Bond surfaces and listens for any sign that the men are still around. Bond thinks he can hear someone walking nearby, but he cannot warn Quarrel fast enough. Quarrel coughs. A minute later, Bond can hear someone wading in the water nearby. Bond motions for Honey and Quarrel to go under the water again. Bond goes under too, but when he feels someone step on his leg, he knows he must kill the man because he might realize what it is he has stepped on. Bond surfaces and fires his gun at the same instant the man fires, but Bond's bullet hits his target and the other does not.

Bond, Honey and Quarrel quickly return to the main part of the river and continue their journey. Despite being exhausted, they continue their journey until they reach the camp shortly before nightfall. Once there, they find that someone has indeed burned the camp to the ground. In the ruins, they find some cans of beans to supplement their food that has gotten wet during their trip. Bond takes a bath in the river and then joins the girl for some sleep while Quarrel takes the first watch. Before going to sleep, the girl tells Bond about herself. The girl is an orphan who lives in the ruins of her family's home. The girl tells Bond that she hopes to move to America and become a high priced prostitute. Bond tries to talk her out of this, but the girl is determined.

Chapter 10, Dragon Spoor; Chapter 11, Admist the Alien Cane Analysis

Bond and his companions hide in the river and their rouse is successful at first. However, they believe they are safe a little too soon and are nearly caught by one of the men who has come back for a second look. Bond decides he must kill this man rather than risk being found out. After he is dead, Bond and his group slip out of their hiding place and continue their trek up the river. This episode has proven that Bond is still capable of killing to protect himself or those he cares about. Also proven here is that the gun Bond has been forced to use is a capable weapon that he handles with the same lethal ease as his Beretta.

They arrive at the camp and find it burned just as the mortally wounded man had told authorities it was. Bond looks around and finds interesting tire tracks, but no evidence of a dragon despite Honey's insistence that she once saw a dragon in this very place.



Later, Bond takes a bath and then spends the evening speaking with Honey, learning all about her past. The girl is an orphan and Bond is immediately drawn to her because of her vulnerability and her naivety. The girl wants to become a high price prostitute in order to make herself rich. Bond tries to tell her that is not a good life for her, but it is the best the girl can come up with to take care of herself, suggesting to the reader her naivety, but also her desperation to become more than she is.



Chapter 12, The Thing

Chapter 12, The Thing Summary

Shortly after Bond goes to sleep, Quarrel wakes him with the news that someone is coming. Bond and Quarrel go to the river and wait for the vehicle whose engine they can clearly hear reaches them. The vehicle turns out to be some sort of all terrain vehicle that has been outfitted to look like a dragon, including a flamethrower in what is supposed to be the nose. Bond tells Quarrel to take up a position to the front of the vehicle and start firing at it. Bond hopes that they can disable the driver and take control of the vehicle so they will not have to walk back to the beach in the morning. However, the vehicle is well reinforced and the bullets do little damage. After a short time, the vehicle turns toward Quarrel and turns on its flamethrower. Minutes later, a loudhailer calls for Bond and the girl to give themselves up.

Bond does give up because he is afraid for the girl. A man comes out of the vehicle and puts handcuffs on both Bond and Honey. Bond walks over to where Quarrel is and finds him dead. Bond apologizes to his friend before being forced aboard the vehicle. Bond and Honey are forced to ride in the vehicle to a compound a few miles away. The vehicle drives into what appears to be a garage and Bond and Honey are taken from the vehicle. A group of men there laugh at them and threaten to do vulgar things to Honey. Bond threatens them, using Doctor No's name, and finds that the use of that name has a strong reaction. These people are afraid of Doctor No. Bond and Honey are then taken through a door into a small hallway and told to go to another door at the far end. When that door opens, Bond is so surprised by what he sees and stops dead in his tracks.

Chapter 12, The Thing Analysis

Bond and Quarrel decide to face the dragon rather than run like everyone else has done. Bond believes that the vehicle will be vulnerable to them as it is designed to frighten not defend itself. However, Bond quickly discovers that he is wrong when all his and Quarrel's bullets bounce off the vehicle. This is bad news for Quarrel who soon faces the wrath of the flamethrower, ending his life. Quarrel was a good friend to Bond and his death is a devastating event for Bond. However, with Honey still at his side, Bond has little time to think about this turn in events.

Bond and Honey are taken captive and forced into the vehicle. When they arrive at Doctor No's compound, the men begin making threats against Honey that cause Bond to react as any gentleman might in the circumstances. Bond uses Doctor No's name and by the reaction it gets from these men, Bond realizes what a hold Doctor No has over his employees. Doctor No's men are terribly afraid of him. This is an important piece of information not only for Bond, but for the reader, as it explains why the reporter

at the beginning of the book would not reveal her boss under pressure from Bond and Quarrel.

This information also suggests to the reader that later in the book Bond will have little help from these people as long as they fear the wrath of Doctor No. Bond and Honey are then taken into a hallway and escorted to a door. Once the door opens, Bond is shocked by what he sees, but the reader must wait for the next chapter to find out why.



Chapter 13, Mink-Lined Prison

Chapter 13, Mink-Lined Prison Summary

The room in which Bond and Honey find themselves looks like the luxury reception room of a high priced lawyer or doctor. There is thick carpet on the floor and expensive furniture as well as expensive paintings on the walls. Waiting for them are two women who begin to ask them questions as if they are guests at a spa. One woman keeps calling them patients. In response to their questions, Bond gives a false name and claims Honey is his wife. When the paperwork is filled out, one of the women leads Bond and Honey down several more hallways and to a room that is like a room in an expensive hotel. They are supplied with breakfast and told to make themselves at home. It is all very nice until Bond notices there are no doorknobs on the inside of the doors.

Honey is scared, but Bond figures they should enjoy the spoils while they wait to find out what the trap has in store for them. Bond helps Honey prepare a bath and then he sits down to eat. By the time Bond is ready to take his own bath, he begins to feel extremely tired. It dawns on Bond after a time that he has been drugged. Bond barely makes it to bed before he falls into a deep sleep. While Bond and the girl are sleeping, a stranger comes into the room and examines both of them in minute detail.

Chapter 13, Mink-Lined Prison Analysis

Bond and Honey are welcomed to Doctor No's lair by a reception room and a couple of receptionists who could be from any law office or doctor's office in London. It is all very luxuriously appointed, making the entire situation somewhat surreal. Bond takes the situation in stride, accepting everything as if it was expected. The only clue the reader has that Bond feels the danger around him is when he gives a false name to the receptionist when she fills out paperwork on him and Honey. Then Bond and Honey are taken to a room that seems like a hotel room, complete with breakfast. Honey is afraid, but Bond figures they may as well enjoy their surroundings until Doctor No's agenda can be learned.

Bond and Honey spend the next little bit bathing and eating. Honey flirts with Bond, interested in expanding their intimate relationship, but Bond is tired and aware of the danger. Again, the reader sees a peek in Bond's fear, but it is a small peek. Bond then eats his breakfast hardily as though it has not occurred to him that there might be danger in eating food supplied by the same man who tried to poison him with fruit in Jamaica. Later, while Bond is bathing he realizes he has been drugged and falls into a deep sleep. While he is sleeping, Bond and Honey are visited by a stranger with claws for hands. The reader must wait until the next chapter to find out who this is and why he is interested in these two people.



Chapter 14, Come Into My Parlour; Chapter 15, Pandora's Box

Chapter 14, Come Into My Parlour; Chapter 15, Pandora's Box Summary

When Bond wakes, he finds Honey searching through the kimonos for one to wear to dinner that night when they are expected to dine with Doctor No. Bond picks one for her and then he calls for a hairdresser and a manicure for her. Bond is hoping that he will be able to steal a weapon from the hairdresser or the manicurist, but he finds that their tools are attached to a belt around their waists with a chain. Bond becomes despondent, worried that he will not be able to find a way to save himself and Honey. The girl comes for Bond and Honey, escorting them down the elevator to Doctor No's parlor. One solid wall in the room is glass, exposing twenty feet of the ocean to them as though it were a huge aquarium. Bond is amazed by the engineering that must have gone into the project, but forgets about it when Doctor No enters the room.

Doctor No is a tall Chinese man with two claws for hands and contact lenses. Doctor No seems eager to tell Bond his story, making sure Bond knows that he intends to kill him at the end. Doctor No begins by telling Bond how he was a member of a Chinese gang in New York from whom he stole a great deal of money. This gang cut his hands off to announce to the world that he was a thief and then left him for dead. However, Doctor No survived and bought Crab Key in order to hide and to begin building his empire.

Doctor No intends to be the most powerful man in the world. To this end, Doctor No also admits to Bond that he killed Strangeways and the men from the Audubon Society because they intended to build a hotel on his island thus bringing hundreds of people there each year. Doctor No could not allow this to happen, so he created the vehicle that looked like a dragon to scare away the birds and the men, then killed Strangeways when his investigation got too close to Doctor No. When Doctor No finishes his story, Bond tells him that he has already prepared a report to be filed with London should he not return to Jamaica and asks if Doctor No might let him go if Bond promises to give him a week's head start.

Chapter 14, Come Into My Parlour; Chapter 15, Pandora's Box Analysis

Bond wants to find a weapon he can take into Doctor No's parlor, but has little success. This causes Bond to fall into a short-lived depression that even Honey cannot break. However, Bond is back to his old self when it is time to be escorted to dinner. When they arrive in Doctor No's parlor, Bond is impressed with the glass wall that makes the ocean into an aquarium of sorts. However, he is more interested in Doctor No himself. Doctor



No is a tall Chinese man with claws for hands and contact lenses in a time when contact lenses were not common. Bond finds Doctor No to be an intimidating man, but he is not any more afraid of him than he had been before.

Doctor No tells Bond and Honey his story, beginning with his time with the Chinese gangs and his theft that left him without hands. Doctor No then tells them that he plans to become the most powerful man in the world. Doctor No admits to killing Strangeways and his secretary, as well as killing the two Audubon Society scientists. Doctor No has also scared away the birds that the Audubon Society was watching in order to keep them off his island. All of this would have gone unnoticed if Doctor No had not killed Strangeways and thus brought Bond to the case. However, if Doctor No succeeds in killing Bond, no one will know. Bond tries to make a deal with Doctor No, but the doctor does not answer before the end of the chapter, leaving the reader wondering what his answer will be.



Chapter 16, Horizons of Agony

Chapter 16, Horizons of Agony Summary

Dinner is served. In order to show they are unconcerned, Bond and Honey flirt through dinner like lovers on a date. Bond manages to steal a knife off the table by distracting Doctor No and his bodyguards by spilling his drink. Bond later takes a lighter and hides it in his sleeve. When dinner is over, Doctor No tells Bond he will not accept his offer. Doctor No tells Bond that he has a weapon system that allows him to control the missiles that are fired from a nearby American test facility and that one day soon he will be able to make one of those missiles land on an enemy of America's and begin a new war. Doctor No plans to sell this technology to Russia in order to continue to finance his compound on Crab Key. Bond tries to tell Doctor No that it is a mistake to make pacts with Russia, but he will not listen.

Doctor No then tells Bond and Honey that he intends to kill them in ways that will allow him to learn more about the threshold of pain a body can endure. Doctor No intends to lay Honey naked in the path of the crabs that populate the island and allow them to bite her to death. Doctor No will then have Bond run an endurance course, curious to see how far along he will get before giving up or dying. Doctor No has his bodyguards take Bond and Honey from their chairs and wishes them luck as he leaves the room.

Chapter 16, Horizons of Agony Analysis

Over dinner, Bond and Honey pretend that they are unconcerned with Doctor No's plans for them, hoping that it will unnerve him enough that he will make a mistake. However, this plan does not appear to work. Bond does manage to hide away two weapons through the course of dinner. Afterward, Doctor No tells Bond that he will not give himself up. Doctor No is in the process of selling technology to Russia that will enable them to control American missiles, possibly allowing them to start a war with America and almost any nation in the world. This deal sounds good to Doctor No, but Bond knows that a deal with Russia can never work out. Doctor No is in for a sad end in Bond's opinion. Bond has done enough work within the Russian community to know that Doctor No will not be allowed to live after selling Russia such a piece of technology.

Doctor No tells Bond and Honey how he intends to kill them. Honey's mode of death is to be eaten to death by crabs. Honey grows upset as she listens to Doctor No talk, giving the reader the impression that she is afraid of what he has in mind for her. Bond is told that he will have to run an endurance course. This too sounds intimidating, but Bond now has weapons and his concern is more for the girl than himself. The reader is concerned for both, however, unsure either of them will survive their intended doom. Only the next few chapters will give the answer.



Chapter 17, The Long Scream

Chapter 17, The Long Scream Summary

Bond and Honey are separated and Bond is taken to a bare room where he is expected to begin his course. Bond looks around the room and sees a grate high up on the wall and guesses this is the beginning of his course. Bond puts on his old clothes, jeans and a shirt, and then attempts to pull the grate of the wall. Bond is immediately hit with a jolt of electricity. Bond recovers and goes right back to work, correctly guessing it would not happen again. Bond makes a spear out of the wire on the grate before climbing into the ductwork. At first, the going is easy, but soon Bond finds himself forced to climb upward, a hard and bruising course. When Bond finishes this part of the course, he finds himself being spied on through a small porthole. Bond ignores the spy and continues.

On the next part of the course, Bond finds himself in a section of ductwork that is heated to an unbearable temperature. Bond rips his shirt and makes cover for his hands and feet before continuing. Bond struggles over the ductwork, unsure he can make it. However, seconds before the last of his clothing burns through, Bond finds himself on the other side of the heat. Bond rests for a long time, ignoring the spy in the porthole. Bond continues, worried that if he does not survive Honey will not survive either. Bond's next challenge is a cage in the middle of the ductwork that contains a large number of poisonous tarantulas. Bond opens the cage and quickly kills the spiders with his knife before going on. Now Bond finds himself on an easy slope of the ductwork. However, the duct quickly becomes a downward curve and Bond cannot stop himself from falling. Within seconds, Bond finds himself falling toward the sea.

Chapter 17, The Long Scream Analysis

Bond is taken into a room where his endurance course is to begin. Bond prepares himself by making sure he has all the weapons he can find, including making one out of the wire of a mesh grate. Bond then begins the course, first being shocked upon first attempt to enter the course. Bond climbs through a long trail of ductwork, first forced to go upward in a bruising manner, then going through many other terrible tasks. Bond is forced to go over burning metal, through which he only survives because of his wits. Bond makes himself a cushion for his hands and feet in order to survive the heat. However, this cushion begins to burn and Bond nearly gives up before he realizes he has made it to the end.

Bond must fight spiders next, another task that causes him a great deal of fear as the reader already knows due to the experience with the centipede. Bond survives heroically however thanks to the knife he managed to steal from the dinner table. Bond has proven himself to be just as heroic as he has been in previous novels, finally putting an end to the doubts M put in the reader's mind when he doubted Bond at the beginning of the novel. Finally, Bond finds himself falling into the ocean, convinced that Doctor



No's intention was to drown him after wearing him out in the course. However, the reader cannot be sure there is not something else waiting for Bond in that water since it seems to be Doctor No's way to come up with as many surprises as he can.



Chapter 18, Killing Grounds; Chapter 19, A Shower of Death

Chapter 18, Killing Grounds; Chapter 19, A Shower of Death Summary

Bond knows he is going to fall into the water so he prepares himself for the impact, saving himself from sure death. When Bond rises to the surface, he sees a fence nearby and climbs it to get away from a school of small fish that are sucking at his bloody skin. Bond is so exhausted that he lies clinging to the fence for a long time. Something in the water below him catches Bond's attention. Bond realizes there must be a reason for the fence enclosing this small pond-like area and begins to wonder what other surprises Doctor No has waiting for him. Suddenly Bond sees a creature with huge eyes and long tentacle like arms. It is a giant squid. The squid reaches up and tries to pull Bond off the fence. Bond fights the squid, first cutting off one of its hands and then wounding its other grabbing arm. The squid falls back into the water, spraying Bond with its ink sac. Bond quickly climbs over the fence and crawls up onto the rocks.

The monthly supply ship has docked on the far side of the island and Doctor No's workers are loading it with the mined guano. Bond sneaks up around the top of the cliff toward the dock and surveys the scene below him. There is a man working the crane that is moving the guano into the ship and Doctor No is standing a few yards away watching. Bond sneaks up to the crane and kills the operator with his knife. Bond then takes the controls of the crane and moves the guano to where Doctor No is standing, drowning him in the foul smelling dust. Bond then goes toward the bungalows that mark the entrance to Doctor No's mountain hideaway. Only a few feet inside the door, Bond is attacked. However, his attacker proves to be Honey.

Bond calms her down and leads her toward the garage. When they come face to face with a group of Doctor No's men, Bond kills them with a few shots from his gun. Then he and Honey climb into the dragon vehicle and escape to the beach where Bond and Quarrel left their canoe. On the way, Honey tells Bond how she escaped the crab. Honey knew if she lay still, the crab would not bother her. Honey waited till dawn when the crab went to ground and made her way back to the bungalows where she ran into Bond.

Chapter 18, Killing Grounds; Chapter 19, A Shower of Death Analysis

Bond falls into the water, terribly injured and exhausted from the obstacle course Doctor No forced him to run. Bond climbs out of the water onto a fence and rests for a time. However, Doctor No is not finished with Bond. There is a giant squid in the water. The



squid attempts to pull Bond off the fence, but Bond still has the knife he stole from the dinner table. Bond fights the squid and wins, except for being drenched with the monster's ink. Bond then moves into the cliffs where he can hear the noise of the monthly supply ship being loaded with the month's guano. Bond is exhausted, but he knows he must end this in order to find and rescue Honey. Bond proves himself to be stronger than M seemed to believe at the beginning of the novel, both physically and emotionally.

Bond goes to the dock and finds a way to kill Doctor No. Bond kills a man running the crane and then he turns the conveyor belt to dump a load of guano on Doctor No, smothering him. Bond then moves into the garage, hoping he will find someone who can be convinced to tell him where Honey is. However, Bond runs into Honey who managed to escape the crabs. What Doctor No did not know about Honey is that she has lived with these types of animals all her life and knows how to deal with them. Honey apparently had an easier night than Bond. Bond and Honey fight their way out of the garage and drive the dragon vehicle down to the beach where Bond and Quarrel left their canoe, escaping back to Jamaica and leaving Crab Key in utter chaos.



Chapter 20, Slave Time

Chapter 20, Slave Time Summary

Bond went to Pleydell-Smith the moment he landed on Jamaica. Pleydell-Smith got Bond medical care and then arranged a meeting between Bond and the local officials. Bond also sent off a message to M, telling him about the assignment and also making a cheeky comment about the ineffectiveness of the guns M forced him to take on. At the meeting, Bond tells his story to the officials and it is decided that the local police and military will take a team to Crab Key and round up Doctor No's remaining workers, effectively shutting down the entire operation. Bond is supposed to return to the hospital that night, but instead he decides to have dinner with Honey, who is waiting for her in the remains of her family's house.

Bond and Honey settle in for a quiet evening. Despite Bond's injuries, Honey begins to flirt with him. Bond rises to the occasion, taking Honey into her bed. Bond has developed strong feelings for Honey. Remembering what Honey told him about wanting to become a high priced prostitute in New York, Bond has arranged for Pleydell-Smith and his wife to take her into their home and to find a good job for Honey using her knowledge of the local animals. Bond is content to know Honey will be well taken care of when he returns to London.

Chapter 20, Slave Time Analysis

Bond turns to his new friend, Pleydell-Smith when he returns to Jamaica. Bond's injuries are not serious but do require some help. Bond is taken to the hospital and treated, but instead of staying the night as the doctors want, Bond goes to a meeting with the local officials regarding Crab Key. It is decided that the local military and police will clear out Crab Key and arrest anyone who is left. Bond also sent a message to M, including a jab about the guns. Bond regrets this jab, but it felt good at the time. Bond is still upset about M's lack of confidence in him and his insistence that he change his gun. However, Bond has proven that he still has the strength and the mental stability to do his job.

Bond has become fond of Honey. Bond has arranged for her to move in with Pleydell-Smith and get a job in Jamaica using her knowledge of the local animal life. Then Bond goes to Honey's house for dinner. Bond and Honey spend the night together before Bond makes plans to return to London. Bond once again has saved the world from evil masterminds and has won the girl. Bond's responsibility for the girl, a theme of the novel, is not over yet, however. Bond arranges for Honey to have a job with the government when he leaves.



Characters

James Bond

James Bond works for the British Secret Service. Bond has just recovered from an illness that was a direct result of an altercation during a previous mission. Bond is shaken from this episode, but ready to return to work. However, his boss appears to have little confidence in Bond's ability to return to work so he sends him on an assignment that he introduces to Bond as a vacation in the sun. Bond is offended by this attitude. Bond is further offended when his boss forces him to give up his beloved Beretta and begin using two larger, more accurate guns. In order to keep piece, though, Bond goes along with his boss and agrees to both the guns and the assignment.

From the moment Bond arrives in Jamaica, however, it becomes clear that this assignment will not be a vacation. Bond is followed and harassed by agents of a man named Doctor No, who Bond suspects is behind the disappearance of his friend, Strangeways. Bond further becomes convinced that this assignment will not be a walk in the park when two separate attacks are made on his life. Bond proceeds with a small amount of recklessness, hoping to prove to his boss that he has not lost his edge and is still capable of handling the dangerous assignments given to him through the service. Bond quickly finds himself being chased through the jungle of a desolate island by a group of heavily armed men. Soon one of Bond's companions is killed and Bond expects the same fate is waiting for him.

Bond and a young girl he has just met on the island are taken to a fortress in the island's mountain and treated like a young couple on a weekend getaway. Bond enjoys the luxuries at first, but becomes despondent when he cannot find a way to get hold of a weapon that might give him and the girl a chance. When Bond meets his enemy face to face, they have a conversation almost like old lost friends and Bond pretends to be at ease even as he is stealing potential weapons from the table and attempting to find a way to escape. Bond is placed in a room and told that he must complete an endurance course. Bond runs this course admirably, suffering terrible injuries and survives despite his enemy's confidence in his demise. Bond then kills his enemy, saves the girl, and lives to fight another day.

M

M is Bond's boss at the British Secret Service. M is deeply concerned about Bond. A few months before the opening of this book, Bond was injured during another assignment. The assignment Bond was on should have ended simply with the retrieval of a Russian girl and the code machine she had brought to England. However, when Bond attempted to arrest the SMERSH officer behind the scheme, he was poisoned. The poison that the SMERSH officer introduced into Bond's system through a kick in the



shins should have been fatal upon contact, but one of the men with Bond at the time was able to keep him alive until medical help could arrive.

Bond has spent several months in the hospital and now M is concerned about sending him out into the field again. M calls Bond's doctor and asks him directly if he believes Bond has burned out. The doctor says this is a possibility. M's concern deepens. M calls Bond into his office and lets him know how disappointed he is in Bond's behavior. M seems to believe that Bond failed in some way and that is why the SMERSH officer was able to poison him. M then tells Bond that he believes his gun had something to do with the episode and insists that Bond replace it with a larger, more accurate model. Bond is unhappy, but M insists. The M sends Bond to Jamaica to investigate the disappearance of another service agent whom M believes has simply run off with his secretary. M bluntly tells Bond he believes this assignment will essentially be a vacation in the sun.

Honeychile Rider

Honeychile Rider is a young woman Bond finds on the beach of Crab Key. Honey has come to the island in order to harvest rare sea shells that she intends to sell to a buyer in Miami. However, by arriving on the island after Bond and Quarrel, without using the same precautions they used, Honey has alerted Doctor No to their presence on the island. Within minutes of Bond discovering Honey Doctor No's men come searching for them. Bond keeps Honey safe and then insists that she join them in their investigation of the island since Doctor No's men have destroyed her canoe in their attempt to scare them out of hiding. Honey agrees, serving as a guide and also helping them find ways to hide from Doctor No's men.

Bond learns that Honey is the child of an old family in a small sector of Jamaica. However, Honey's parents died when she was small and she was left to live with her nanny in the ruins of her once great house. Honey is a beautiful woman, so when her nanny died and with her all protection Honey had, the men in town became predators against her. One night a local man attempted to rape Honey and in the process broke her nose. Now Honey wants to save up enough money to move to New York. First Honey will have her nose fixed and then she wants to become a high priced prostitute in order to take care of herself. Bond tries to talk her out of this, but Honey is determined. After they escape from Crab Key, however, Bond arranges for Honey to have the surgery in his company and then to get a job with the Jamaican government using her extensive knowledge of the local wildlife.

Quarrel

Quarrel is a Caymen Islander that Bond worked with once before. Quarrel is a good friend to Bond. Quarrel meets Bond at the airport and places himself in Bond's service, willing to do anything Bond asks of him. At first Quarrel acts as a sort of bodyguard, helping Bond lose a car that is following them and then torturing a girl for information. Later Quarrel becomes an errand boy, arranging a rent house for himself and Bond to



hide out in. Bond and Quarrel stay in this house for a week with Quarrel helping Bond recover some of his physical strength that he lost during his extensive illness. When Bond and Quarrel travel to Crab Key, it is Quarrel who hides the canoe in such a way that Doctor No's men will never find it. Later, Quarrel is killed when Doctor No's men invade their camp with a dragon vehicle that has a flamethrower on its nose.

Bond does not believe that his assignment is truly as dangerous as it becomes. Although Quarrel suspects as much, Bond thinks Quarrel is only being dramatic. Quarrel asks Bond to get him some life insurance before going to Crab Key because Quarrel has heard so many stories about the island that he is afraid. However, this fear does not stop Quarrel from going. This is because Quarrel is devoted to Bond and will do whatever is asked of him. Quarrel does and his reward is death.

Pleydell-Smith

Pleydell-Smith is the Colonial Secretary in Jamaica. Bond meets Pleydell-Smith when he meets with the governor about his case and specifically asks for a meeting with the Colonial Secretary. Bond wants to get more information about Crab Key since the island was the center of Strangeways' last assignment for the Secret Service. Bond likes Pleydell-Smith right away. However, when Bond asks for the files he needs on Crab Key, he quickly learns that they are missing. Bond suspects that Pleydell-Smith's new secretary is behind this disappearance. Later, Bond tells Pleydell-Smith this when they have dinner together.

Pleydell-Smith becomes the only man in the Jamaican government that Bond feels he can trust, especially since he finds the governor abrasive and ineffectual. When Bond finds a fruit basket in his room that he suspects has been poisoned, he sends these fruits to Pleydell-Smith for examination in the government labs. Later, when Bond and Honey return from Crab Key, it is Pleydell-Smith that Bond goes to for help. Bond also has Pleydell-Smith arrange for a job and a home for Honey when Bond and Honey return from having her surgery in New York.

Doctor No

Doctor No is an Asian man who was a part of the gangs in his native China. When trouble breaks out, Doctor No was smuggled to the United States. There he became a member of a powerful gang. When a gang war broke out, Doctor No took the opportunity to steal more than a million dollars from his bosses. Both Doctor No's hands were removed by this gang and he was shot in the chest, left for dead. However, Doctor No survived. Doctor No bought Crab Key Island in order to hide from this gang and to build his little empire until he became powerful enough that he would no longer have to hide from anyone. Doctor No uses the guano mining as a cover, using the island also to create the technology to control missiles. Doctor No intends to sell this technology to the Russians in order to gain more money, more power. Doctor No also has a fascination



with human pain thresholds and uses his island to torture people in order to pursue this fascination.

There are a group of rare birds living on Doctor No's island. The Audubon Society out of New York has the rights to a small portion of the island in order to study these birds. A few months before the opening of the book, Doctor No got notice that the Audubon Society intended to open a hotel on his island in order to share these rare birds with people from all over the world. Doctor No cannot have people coming to the island due to the possibility of them learning about his secret plans. Doctor No created a vehicle that looks like a dragon in order to scare away the birds and the scientists watching them. When investigators come to find out why the scientists claim they were attacked by a dragon, Doctor No causes their plane to crash. This is why Strangeways is put on the case. Doctor No openly admits to Bond that he killed Strangeways as well as his secretary in order to keep them from opening the investigation again. Now, Doctor No intends to kill Bond and Honey for the same reasons. However, Bond survives Doctor No's endurance course and turns the tables, killing Doctor No by dumping a load of guano on him.

Chief of Staff

Chief of Staff is M's right hand man. Chief of Staff is Bond's closest friend within the service. Chief of Staff is also the man in charge of the details of the cases the service investigates. It is the Chief of Staff who tells Bond about the Strangeways case, also implying that he believes that Strangeways has simply run off with his secretary. Bond finds the Chief of Staff cold and unfriendly toward him, suspicious that the Chief of Staff also feels that Bond has let him down by allowing himself to be injured during his last case. However, Chief of Staff does not hesitate when Bond asks him questions about Strangeways. Chief of Staff tells Bond about the last case Strangeways was investigating, about the Whooping Cranes, and Crab Key Island. It is this information that sends Bond to Crab Key and what solves both cases. Chief of Staff is an important character in this novel because he is such a good friend to Bond and because he does provide information that is important to the overall plot.

Strangeways and Miss Trueblood

Strangeways is an agent for the British Secret Service. Strangeways is stationed in Jamaica. Strangeways is a creature of habit, always playing cards at the local club and leaving in the middle of the game in order to make a call at his office. It is this habit that leads to Strangeways' death. Strangeways is leaving the club in order to make the call when he is confronted by three blind men, or at least three men who appear to be blind. These men are really agents of Doctor No's and they are there to kill Strangeways. It appears that Strangeways has gotten too close in his investigation of the death of some Audubon scientists. Later, the killers make their way to Strangeways' office where his secretary is waiting for him. One of the killers shoots the secretary and then burns the office. Then the men take both bodies and throw them into a nearby marina.



Dr. No's Watchmen

Doctor No has hired a large number of Chinese minorities from Jamaica to run his small empire. A few of these men are stationed in bungalows around the base of the mountain and paid to keep watch over the island. It is these men who come looking for Bond, Quarrel, and Honey after having seen Honey's canoe on the radar. Later, they come down the river and nearly find Bond, Quarrel and Honey hiding in the river. Bond is forced to kill one of these men. When Bond and his companions camp that night at the same camp where the scientists were overrun by what they called a dragon, a dragon vehicle appears and begins attacking them. Bond thinks that they can disable the vehicle and use it to return to the beach the next day, but the vehicle is impenetrable. Instead, Quarrel is killed with the flame thrower on the vehicle's nose and Bond is taken prisoner along with Honey. At the end, Bond kills several of these men when he and Honey make their escape from the island.

Audubon Society Scientists

Two scientists from the Audubon Society in New York live on Crab Key in order to observe the Whooping Cranes who inhabit the island. When Doctor No gets word that the Audubon Society plans to build a hotel on his island, he creates a dragon vehicle and tries to scare these men off the island. One of the men survives the attack long enough to take a boat to the Jamaica coast and tell officials what he has seen. However, no one believes he really saw a dragon until Bond sees the vehicle himself. The death of these scientists does begin an investigation, but the investigation is at first sidetracked by a plane crash. Later investigators are allowed on the island and the investigation is put to rest. The Audubon Society does not like the results of the investigation and ask the British Secret Service to look into it. When the Secret Service asks Strangeways to check into the affair, he disappears. This is why Bond is brought onto the island.



Objects/Places

Beretta .25 Caliber

Bond's gun of choice is a Beretta .25 caliber.

Smith and Wesson Centennial Airweight Revolver .38 Caliber a

M thinks Bond's weapon of choice, the Beretta, is too small and ineffectual. He forces Bond to adopt the Smith and Wesson and the Walther guns prior to his current mission.

Guano

Guano is bird excrement that is used as fertilizer. When mined properly, it is worth a great deal of money.

Strangeways' Car

Bond feels that driving around in Strangeways' car is too obvious a target to his enemies, so he has Quarrel hire two men who look like himself and Bond to drive the car to Montego. Bond receives the news a few days later that the car has been involved in a fatal crash.

Whooping Crane

A group of Whooping Cranes live on Crab Key Island. The Audubon Society has bought the rights to allow a group of scientists live on the island to observe the birds.

Sea Shells

Honey harvests and sells unique seashells in order to make a living. Honey hopes to make enough money to pay for an operation to fix her broken nose.

Canoes

Both Bond and Honey travel to Crab Key in canoes. Bond and Quarrel take the caution of lowering their sail in order to stay off of Doctor No's radar, but Honey does not take precautions, causing Doctor No's men to be aware of her presence.



Dragon Vehicle

Doctor No creates a vehicle that looks like a dragon in order to scare away the birds and the Audubon Society scientists.

Doctor No's Mountain Lair

Doctor No has built an entire building inside a mountain that is full of luxuries, including a solid glass wall under the ocean that he calls his aquarium.

Squid Pond

At the end of the endurance course, Bond falls into a sequestered pond that contains a rare, giant squid. The squid attempts to eat Bond, but he manages to injure the squid and escape.

Crab Key

Crab Key is an island a few miles off the Jamaican coast that has a large deposit of guano on it. Doctor No buys this island shortly before the war. This island is also occupied by Whooping Cranes and a group of scientists studying the rare birds.

Jamaica

Bond travels to Jamaica for a second time in his career in order to investigate the disappearance of his friend and fellow Secret Service agent, Strangeways.



Themes

Trust

Trust is a theme of this novel because the novel begins with M questioning Bond's ability to continue his job. M is under the impression that Bond has lost his confidence, his willingness to go into any situation no matter the danger. Bond has been injured. Bond nearly died when he was poisoned by a Russian SMERSH agent. After months in the hospital, M has come to the conclusion that Bond's illness is partly his own fault for not being more careful in the presence of this assassin and it represents the idea that Bond is no longer capable of doing his job. However, M and Bond have had a long relationship that has been highly favorable up to this point. M decides to trust Bond with one more case, a test to see how he handles himself in the field after his bad experience. It is trust built on a long relationship that leads M to do this.

Trust also enters the narration in Bond's relationship with Quarrel. From the beginning, Quarrel tells Bond that Crab Key is a dangerous place and not somewhere he wants to go. Quarrel is deathly afraid of going to the island because friends of his have gone missing after coming to close to the island. However, when Bond tells Quarrel that they are going to sail to the island to investigate, Quarrel does not hesitate to go along. The only sign the reader gets that Quarrel is afraid is when he asks Bond to get life insurance for him before they leave. Quarrel does not argue because he trusts Bond and knows that Bond would not ask him to go if it were not important. When they arrive, Quarrel is killed by Doctor No's men. Quarrel's instincts were correct, but this does not take away the deep amount of trust he had for Bond.

Finally, trust comes into the book when Bond meets Honey. From the moment they meet, Bond and Honey are drawn to each other. Bond finds Honey to be a beautiful and innocent girl in need of protection. Honey sees Bond as someone who will be kind to her and take care of her. A trust is built between these two that borders on the edge of love. Honey follows Bond wherever he wants to take her, even when it looks like he has led her to her death. Bond follows Honey as well, trusting her when she gives suggestions on how to hide from Doctor No's men and when she confesses how she got away from a situation that should have been sure death. Bond trusts people easily in these novels, sometimes for the right reasons and sometimes for the wrong. It is this ability to trust that makes it an important theme to the novel.

Confidence

Bond's confidence is shaken at the beginning of the novel when he realizes his boss, M, no longer believes he is capable of handling himself in the field. Bond is offended, but he is also determined to prove himself. From the beginning, Bond makes repeated mistakes that he realizes could get him killed. These mistakes shake his confidence even more, leaving him wondering if M is not correct about his assessment of Bond's



abilities. However, Bond plows on, determined to prove that his friends, Strangeways, did not run off with his secretary but was killed by Doctor No. When Bond arrives on Crab Key, he finds that his and Quarrel's careful planning has been undone by Honey. This again shakes Bond, but he continues on.

Later in the novel, Quarrel is killed. Bond thinks back to when Quarrel insisted on Bond getting him life insurance and realizes that Quarrel went willingly to his death because he believed Bond would protect him. Bond is saddened over this death, but more, he is concerned that he no longer has the power to control a situation that is quickly going out of control. Bond worries that he will not be able to protect Honey. This becomes more of a reality when he cannot find a way to get some sort of weapon. Bond becomes despondent, sitting in a funk of depression in the hours before meeting Doctor No for the first time. However, Bond is a professional and he does not let his emotions show. Eventually Bond is able to get a few weapons and fight his way out of an endurance course that might have killed a lesser man. Bond then finds a way to kill Doctor No. His confidence restored, Bond returns to Jamaica and contacts M with a jab at his lack of trust in Bond's abilities.

Responsibility

Bond did not intend to be responsible for anyone but himself, but when Honey showed up, he finds himself unable to send her back home and risk running into Doctor No's men on the way. Bond protects Honey from Doctor No's men and insists that she travel with him and Quarrel despite Quarrel's objections. This small group of travelers begins to look to Bond to make all the decisions, making him the leader. Bond leads them well despite his own struggle with confidence. Bond is not sure he can take care of himself let alone two other people due to a mishap at the end of his last assignment. Even Bond's boss, M, is not sure about his abilities to survive another difficult assignment. This shakes Bond's confidence and leaves him unsure of himself.

When Quarrel is killed, Bond feels that he let his friend down. Bond had not promised to get Quarrel home safe, but he had underplayed the dangers of their assignment and made Quarrel's fears look somewhat childish. Now Quarrel is dead and Bond is left with this young woman who could not care for herself under such circumstance. Bond becomes obsessed with taking care of Honey. Bond is despondent when it becomes clear he and Honey are going to die. When Honey survives with no help from him, Bond still feels responsible. Bond arranges for Honey to have a job and place to live in Jamaica. Bond also arranges to pay for and travel with Honey to have surgery on her broken nose. Bond is not in love with Honey, but he cares enough about her that he cannot let go of the responsibility he has adopted toward her. It is this relationship that makes responsibility an important theme of the novel.

Style

Point of View

The point of view of the novel is third person omniscient. The author uses James Bond as his narrating character, showing much of the novel through Bond's eyes. The author also allows the reader to see and feel Bond's emotions, creating the situation in which the narration becomes omniscient or all knowing. This point of view allows the reader to have greater insight into Bond's actions by giving the reader an inside peek at his reasoning. Bond becomes involved in this case because he is ordered to do so by his agency, but the way Bond precedes once he arrives in Jamaica is based on his reactions to events taking place around him. Due to this and the insight provided by the point of view, the reader is better able to follow Bond's reasoning and understand why the plot takes on the directions it does.

This novel is a character driven novel that depends on the reader's understanding of Bond's thoughts and emotions. The reader also needs to have an emotional stake in what happens to Bond in order for the climax of the novel to work. Bond finds himself doubted by his boss and put in a position that was underestimated and causes Bond to once again prove himself to those around him. In order to do this, Bond is put through some very difficult situations. If the reader did not care about Bond or what happened to him, these situations would be almost boring and would not keep the reader interested in the development of the plot. Therefore, the point of view, which allows an intimacy between the reader and Bond, creates a connection that ensures that the reader will care about what happens to Bond.

Setting

The novel begins in London where the weather is wet and cold. The weather in London is important because it is a backdrop to the disappointment and lack of trust M has developed in Bond over the past few months due to an illness Bond suffered as a result of a mistake with a previous case. The setting then moves to Jamaica where the weather is warm and sunny, the complete opposite of London. In Jamaica, however, the weather is only a cover for the dark and sinister works going on a few miles off the coast. Bond finds himself having to prove himself not only to M, but to himself, while suffering the ill effects the sun can have on a body. Jamaica appears to M, and to the reader, as a vacation spot for the ailing Bond. The sun is warm and the beach is inviting, and Bond does find a few minutes to enjoy these things, but it is only a backdrop to Doctor No's evil that Bond senses and knows he must confront.

The final setting of the novel is Crab Key, Doctor No's island. The island consists mostly of a large mountain that Bond likens to a rat with its spine raised. Bond arrives on a dark colored beach that runs up the island toward a small river. Bond and his companions then follow the river into the center of the island, having to deal with dense vegetation



and constant damp. When Bond and his companions are caught by Doctor No's men, they are taken to the lair Doctor No has created in the mountain. This lair is the lap of luxury with thick carpets, expensive furniture, and a glass wall under the ocean that acts as a giant aquarium. This lair is a contrast to its owner, Doctor No, who is a cold man with little concern for the welfare of his employees or anyone but himself. These settings work well with the narration, setting a backdrop that fits each development in the plot, giving the story a sense of completeness that is important to help the reader become involved in the story without being aware of the mechanics of technique.

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 Jamaica, slang and contractions become a part of the dialogue of the people Bond speaks with during his stay. Quarrel speaks with a strong accent, causing the dialogue that includes his speech to be long and broken with many slang words thrown in. 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. Although the novel uses very little slang, it still gets the sense of Bond's native language across by refraining from the use of contractions or other language techniques that modern speakers use in their daily language. However, the author does use a technique when writing dialogue that is spoken by Quarrel that includes broken words and improper spellings, again giving the speech and the novel a sense of authenticity.

Structure

The novel is written in twenty chapters, each chapter named for an event or statement made within the chapter. The chapters are relatively long in this novel, many of them over ten pages, while still others are shorter than ten pages. The narration is done from Bond's point of view for the majority of the novel, except for the first few chapters. The first chapter is seen from both Strangeways' point of view as well as his secretary's and their killers. The second chapter is presented in M's point of view in order to get across to the reader Bond's recent illness and M's unhappiness that led to the illness.

The novel has only one plot line. The main plot is that of the disappearance of Strangeways and Bond's attempts to find out what really happened. When Bond arrives on the island, certain events cause him to believe that there is something dark taking place that caused his friend to disappear. These opinions are reinforced when Bond arrives on Doctor No's island and is taken captive. Bond learns about Doctor No's dark plans and realizes he is going to die. However, Bond manages to survive Doctor No's

plan for Bond's death and it is Doctor No that ends up losing his life. This novel is typical of the Bond novels in structure in that the plot is simple, centering on Bond and his adventures on missions for the British Secret Service.



Quotes

"It was an iron routine. Strangeways was a man of iron routine. Unfortunately, strict patterns of behavior can be deadly if they are read by an enemy."

Chapter 1, Hear You Loud and Clear, pg. 13

"Three weeks later, in London, March came in like a rattlesnake."

Chapter 2, Choice of Weapons, pg. 19

"Bond felt unreasonably sad. How could one have such ties with an inanimate object, an ugly one at that, and, he had to admit it, with a weapon that was not in the same class as the ones chosen by the Armourer? But he had the ties and M was going to cut them."

Chapter 2, Choice of Weapons, pg. 30

"Bond looked across into M's eyes. For the first time in his life he hated the man. He knew perfectly well why M was being tough and mean. It was deferred punishment for having nearly got killed on his last job. Plus getting away from this filthy weather into the sunshine. M couldn't bear his men to have an easy time. In a way Bond felt sure he was being sent on this cushy assignment to humiliate him. The old bastard."

Chapter 3, Holiday Task, pg. 40

"So it was war! Well, well. How very interesting. Bond felt the slight tautening of the skin at the base of his stomach. He smiled thinly at his reflection in the mirror. So his instincts and his reasoning had been correct. Strangeways and the girl had been murdered and their records destroyed because they had got too hot on the trail."

Chapter 6, The Finger on the Trigger, pg. 71

"It was a naked girl, with her back to him. She was not quite naked. She wore a broad leather belt round her waist with a hunting knife in a leather sheath at her right hip. The belt made her nakedness extraordinarily erotic." Chapter 8, The Elegant Venus, pg. 91

"Bond examined the happy, beautiful face. She had seemed quite unconcerned by the arrival of the search party. To her it was only the game of hide-and-seek she had played before. Bond hoped she wasn't going to get a shock." Chapter 9, Close Shaves, pg. 103

"Tomorrow was a long way off and presented no problems except a great deal of physical exercise. Life suddenly felt easy and good." Chapter 11, Amidst the Alien Came, pg. 125

"It was like being shown into the very latest Florida hotel suite—except two details which Bond noticed. There were no windows and no inside handles to the doors."

Chapter 13, Mink-Lined Prison, pg. 155



"The hallow ceremony and the charming room maddened Bond. He longed to break it up with his own hands—to wind his silk napkin round Doctor No's throat and squeeze until the contact lenses popped out of the black, damnable eyes." Chapter 16, Horizons of Agony, pgs. 189-190

"And where had Doctor No's soul gone to? Had it been a bad one or simply a mad one? Bond thought of the burned twist down in the swamp that had been Quarrel. He remembered the soft ways of the big body, the innocence of the grey, horizon-seeking eyes, the simple lusts and desires, the reverence for superstitious and instincts, the childish faults, the loyalty and even love Quarrel had given him—the warmth, there was only one word for it, or the man. Surely he hadn't gone to the same place as Doctor No. Whatever happened to dead people, there was surely one place for the warm and another for the cold. And which, when the time came, would he, Bond, go to?" Chapter 20, Slave-Time, pgs. 247-248

"Bond had enciphered a short signal to M via the colonial Office which he had coolly concluded with: 'Regret must again request sick leave stop surgeons report follows stop kindly inform Armourer Smith and Wesson ineffective against flame-thrower endit.'" Chapter 20, Slave-Time, pg. 252



Topics for Discussion

Why is M upset with Bond? Does M think that Bond was negligent in getting poisoned? Was the poisoning Bond's fault? Has Bond lost his edge? Why does M make Bond turn in his weapon and exchange it with a larger weapon? Why does Bond not like this idea? Does the exchange in weapons have an impact on Bond's ability to survive his latest mission?

Bond arrives in Jamaica and is immediately photographed by a local newswoman. Why does this make Bond think that the bad guys are documenting his arrival? What about this woman makes Bond believe she works for Doctor No? Why does Bond allow Quarrel to hurt this woman to learn who her employer is? Why does the woman not confess?

Why does Bond arrange for Quarrel to hire two drivers to take Strangeways' car to Montego? Why does Bond then arrange to move to a rent house? What makes Bond think that his life is in danger? When the centipede is found in Bond's bed, why does he think it was put there on purpose? What would have happened if the centipede had bitten Bond? Does Bond show an inappropriate amount of fear during this episode? Would you have expected Bond to react this way?

Bond has Quarrel help him get into shape at the rent house. Why? What does Bond expect to happen when he arrives on Crab Key? What is Bond's purpose in going to Crab Key? How does Honey's arrival compromise this plan? Why does Bond not return to Jamaica and pick up his investigation at a later date? Why does Bond not send Honey back to Jamaica?

Why did Doctor No create the dragon vehicle? Who was it supposed to scare, the scientists or the birds? Why did Doctor No want to scare away the birds? Why did Doctor No's men not kill Bond and Honey like they did Quarrel?

Why did Bond relax his guard when he and Honey were put into their room in Doctor No's lair? Should Bond have been more aware of the possibility that the food might be drugged? Why did Doctor No drug their food? What purpose did this serve? When Bond becomes despondent later, is this behavior the reader would expect of Bond? Why do you think the author allows the reader to see weakness in Bond?

When Bond and Honey meet Doctor No, why do you suppose Doctor No tells them so much about his work and his motivations? Is Doctor No bragging? Why does Doctor No have dinner with Bond and Honey before sending them off to their deaths? Does this seem like something a killer might do? Is Doctor No naive in believing these tactics would really kill Bond and Honey? Why do they survive? Did Doctor No underestimate them?