

For Your Eyes Only Study Guide

For Your Eyes Only by Ian Fleming

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Plot Summary

James Bond, agent 007 with Her Majesty's Secret Service, completes a series of adventures in this novel. First, Bond detects and defeats a spy ring operating out of an underground lair in France. Moving on to Canada, Bond tracks down a Cuban murderer and wreaks revenge. Then, in the Bahamas, after swiftly stopping some Cuban rebels, Bond stays to learn the story of a former stewardess, now the wife of a millionaire. Next, Bond stops a heroin ring in Italy, and finally, Bond winds up in the Seychelles islands off Africa, where he covers up the murder of an unpleasant, abusive man.

As the novel begins, James Bond is returning from a failed mission. He's diverted from returning to England in order to investigate the killing of a NATO messenger in France. The local investigators resent his presence, and the investigation seems to go nowhere. Bond's keen insight leads him to suspect that a band of gypsies left behind a cell of spies, and he detects their underground lair. Bond is nearly killed in the process of capturing the spies, but he's saved by his current infatuation, fellow agent Mary Ann Russell.

Then, the elderly English owners of a Jamaican estate are murdered by thugs who want their property. The two are old friends of M, and the Cuban gangster behind the slayings is out of reach of the law. M sends Bond to the gangster's estate in Canada to execute him. On the verge of finishing his task, Bond runs into the daughter of the murdered couple, also out for revenge. The two work together to destroy the gangster and his men.

Bond's globe-trotting next brings him to the Bahamas, where he quickly puts Cuban smugglers out of commission. He spends an evening with the Governor before he takes off again, and the Governor ends up telling Bond an interesting tale: a socially awkward young government worker meets a solicitous stewardess on a flight back to England and marries her before heading to a new post in the Bahamas. The woman has an affair with a local playboy, and the man is devastated. His wife's affair breaks up, but it's too late. He divorces her, leaving her with no means of support. She begs for a little money, and he leaves her with a couple of items to sell. When she goes to sell them, though, she finds that he owes money on both. She is left devastated, with nothing. The woman does, however, find a job in a hotel and eventually marries a Canadian millionaire.

Bond's next mission is to Italy, where he is ordered to track down and stop a group of heroin smugglers running a pipeline of drugs into England. Bond meets with the Americans' underworld contact, who tells him a man named Colombo is running the drug ring. Bond, on Colombo's trail, is kidnapped by Colombo himself. However, Colombo tells a different story. The American contact is really the drug smuggler, backed by the Russians. Colombo and Bond work together to kill the drug runner and break up the ring.

Bond wraps up a routine piece of business in the Seychelles islands and then joins a sailing expedition with an unpleasant, abusive millionaire named Krest, his beautiful

wife, and a local man, Fidele Barbey. On the voyage, Krest is murdered, and Bond covers up the crime.



Chapter 1, From a View to a Kill

Chapter 1, From a View to a Kill Summary

James Bond, agent 007 with Her Majesty's Secret Service, completes a series of adventures in this novel. First, Bond detects and defeats a spy ring operating out of an underground lair in France. Moving on to Canada, Bond tracks down a Cuban murderer and wreaks revenge. Then, in the Bahamas, after swiftly stopping some Cuban rebels, Bond stays to learn the story of a former stewardess, now the wife of a millionaire. Next, Bond stops a heroin ring in Italy, and finally, Bond winds up in the Seychelles islands off Africa, where he covers up the murder of an unpleasant, abusive man.

The novel opens with a motorcyclist screaming down a forest road. He is outfitted as a Royal Corps of Signals messenger, but he carries a Luger. He sees a similar messenger in front of him and starts to gain on the other man. When the messenger at front sees the man behind him, he thinks it's one of his fellow workers and slows to let the man catch up. It's a fatal mistake. The man with the Luger gets close enough for a good shot and kills the real messenger, sending him off the road into the brush. The killer takes the messenger's bag and a few valuables and makes sure the tracks and body are covered from the road.

Meanwhile, James Bond is just returning from a failed mission, and he's stopped in Paris. He thinks about finding a charming girl and having a great evening, but he realizes that it will probably only be a disappointment. Bond is sitting in a cafe when a girl drives up in a car, jumps out, and runs into the cafe. Bond is surprised when she comes to his table and urges him to come with her. Then, she drops a code phrase. She's a fellow agent, and Bond is needed at headquarters.

The beautiful agent is Mary Ann Russell, Number 765. She drives Bond expertly, if somewhat dangerously, back to headquarters, where Wing Commander Rattray briefs Bond on the dead messenger. The NATO security agency SHAPE is investigating, and M wants Bond to join the investigation for the Secret Service. M thinks that Bond might see something other people are taking for granted.

Bond heads to SHAPE, where he finds cooperation but also resentment. Bond checks and double-checks the investigators' work, and at first he finds nothing. Bond is just about ready to depart, the mystery unsolved, when he asks for the report from search dogs that he requested scour the entire forested area. Bond talks to the handler. The dogs found nothing, but the handler casually mentions that they still smelled something in the clearing where gypsies camped earlier in the year.

Bond is interested in this gypsy camp, realizing the gypsies are just the type of people no one might notice, exactly as M said. Bond finds out how long the gypsies stayed and when they left. Then, he spies on the clearing until he sees a strange flower rise up from a bush. It's actually a periscope disguised as a flower. It looks around, then lowers back



into the brush. An opening appears in the forest floor, the entrance to an underground lair. A man dressed as a SHAPE messenger comes out and waits by the road, but when no messenger appears, he goes back into the lair.

Now, Bond knows the whole story of the murdered messenger. He tells Mary Ann his plans, and she is angry that he's taking such a big risk. Bond is unmoved. His plan is already in place, and he won't be shaken. Bond makes a fake messenger run, since he knows the killer is watching. When the man gets close enough, Bond turns the table, shooting the killer off his motorcycle.

After disposing of the murderer, Bond goes back to the underground lair to capture the other spies. He pretends to be the killer returning. Then Bond realizes that he's forgotten something. The men used snowshoes to walk through the meadow without leaving tracks, and Bond forgot to take the killer's snowshoes.

Bond's ploy works, even without the snowshoes. The men don't recognize Bond until it's too late. Bond pulls out his gun, but he's reluctant to kill. The men won't give up. One rushes Bond while the other heads back to the lair. Bond's backup men come out of the forest, but Bond is locked in combat with one of the spies. Bond has left the gun safety on and cannot shoot. The man kicks Bond in the head and gets Bond's gun. Just as the man is about to murder Bond, the enemy spy is shot.

When Bond looks around to see who saved him, he realizes that Mary Ann has joined Bond's backup team. She apologizes, saying that she forced them to take her with them. No one else wanted to shoot, for fear of hitting Bond, but she took the risk. Bond thanks her, noting that she made sure he'd make their dinner date that night.

Chapter 1, From a View to a Kill Analysis

James Bond rushes from one adventure to the next. He is coming from a failure, where the locals resented Bond being thrust into their midst. As a result, the man Bond was trying to help is dead. Now he's sent into a similar situation, where the local investigators resent Bond's assistance.

Bond is careful to keep his intelligence from SHAPE. When he locates the underground lair, he tells no one but his own Secret Service. Throughout the novel, the British Secret Service is held as a paragon, more resourceful and successful (in the person of Bond) than the Americans or Europeans. In the world environment when the Bond novels were written, what was once the British Empire was a relatively small player on the world stage dominated by* America, Russia, and China. In this Bond fantasy, the British are more than a small player. Bond proves his superiority to the SHAPE agents, and as a consequence, he takes pressure off of the British to combine their forces with SHAPE.

The final conflict with the spies introduces the moral dilemmas of Bond's life. Bond is a killer, but he only kills when his job requires it. Bond does not lust for blood or kill for personal vengeance. When Bond goes after the spies, he leaves the safety off of his gun, thinking that the men will realize they don't have a chance and give up. Bond's



desire not to kill nearly costs him his life. The elements that save Bond are Mary Ann's willingness to take a risk and her willingness to kill. In Bond's line of work, both risk and ruthlessness are necessary.

The focus of the novel is on James Bond as an independent operator. For the most part, he works alone and only uses other agents as extra help with his plan. Bond shows the power of the individual by using his intellect and his instinct to defeat the enemy. This power of individuality, however, is in the service of a collective society: Britain.

Bond also meets, dates, and is indebted to Mary Ann in this chapter. He goes off to dally with her in the end. However, Mary Ann does not appear in the rest of the novel. Each adventure, for Bond, seems to come with a beautiful woman. Bond's lifestyle, though, is transient. As he hops around the world, moving from one adventure to the next, Bond hops from one girl to the next as well.



Chapter 2, For Your Eyes Only, pages 32-53

Chapter 2, For Your Eyes Only, pages 32-53 Summary

Mr. and Mrs. Havelock own a large, beautiful estate in Jamaica. They are sitting outside, and Mrs. Havelock is watching the beautiful doctor hummingbirds that live near the house. Her husband is reading the paper and discusses world politics, including the Cuban gangsters who are investing money in Jamaican land.

A car drives up, and three unpleasant-looking men come to see the couple. One of them introduces himself as Major Gonzales. He offers to buy the Havelocks' estate, Content, for any price. Mr. Havelock refuses. The estate is not for sale. The men have brought sacks full of money, but the Havelocks won't sell at any price. The men shoot down the couple and then drive off, planning to buy the estate from the Havelocks' daughter.

A month later, Bond is sitting in M's office. M talks to Bond about the responsibilities of being head of the Secret Service, or any similar agency. Bond, as a mere agent, is relieved of the moral responsibility of decision making. He must merely follow orders. Bond realizes that M is faced with a moral dilemma.

M explains that two friends of his, the Havelocks, were murdered. The gangster behind the crime is a man called von Hammerstein, and he is currently staying at an estate called Echo Lake in the northeastern United States, near the Canadian border. However, there's no chance of making a case against the criminal. M is uncertain what to do, especially since he's personally interested in the case. Bond has no uncertainty. If the gangsters are beyond the reach of the law, they should be assassinated. Bond takes on the job.

Bond flies to Montreal, Canada and drives to Ottawa, where he meets with a colonel in the Royal Canadian mounted police. They use only first names for the meeting, which is off the official records. Since Bond's mission is highly illegal, if he gets caught, there will be no official knowledge of him. That said, the colonel gives Bond a list of items that he'll need on his mission.

The colonel advises Bond to dye his skin dark and wear unobtrusive clothing. He gives Bond a Savage 99F rifle, a gun license, and a hunting license. He has already placed some camping gear in Bond's car. He provides a map and aerial photographs of Echo Lake as well as an old smuggler's route for Bond to use to cross the border into the U.S.

At the end of the interview with Bond, the colonel wishes he could go along on Bond's mission, reminiscing about sniping during the war. Bond remembers to ask whether the Savage rifle is single pull or double, since he won't get to practice with the rifle before it's time to use it. The rifle is single pull, with a hair trigger.



Chapter 2, For Your Eyes Only, pages 32-53 Analysis

After two deaths in Jamaica, Bond is off on a new mission. This time, Bond is clearly going outside the letter of the law in pursuit of justice. M is concerned that the mission might be not justice, but revenge. Bond has no such qualms. To Bond, the law is superseded by a higher idea of justice, and he has no reservations about becoming a vigilante to defeat an enemy who is out of reach of the law.

The opening scene of this chapter, the death of the Havelocks, portrays the gunmen as merely thugs and the Havelocks as part of a dying breed of English colonists who are trying to maintain something beautiful in Jamaica. The reader has no sympathy for the gunmen, who are clearly villains and willing to murder in cold blood. The villains remain distant from the reader. There is no insight to them as people, only as goons and criminals. Bond is on a mission to murder them, and knowing only that the gunmen are killers, the reader is led to sympathize with Bond's attitude that executing them outside the law is just.

The later part of this section is concerned with setting up Bond's mission into the woods. He flies to Canada and collects his equipment from the sympathetic Canadian officials. The Canadian government is willing to cooperate, as long as there is no record of any connection between them and Bond's acts. This tacit agreement to Bond's right to assassinate a criminal gives the impression that government-sponsored murder is right and just, but also taboo to maintain the niceties of democracy. The colonel seems almost enthusiastic about the mission, relating it to sniping missions during wartime.



Chapter 2, For Your Eyes Only, pages 53-76

Chapter 2, For Your Eyes Only, pages 53-76 Summary

Bond spends the night at a motel. He completes his final preparations, dyeing his skin a dark color and preparing coffee and bourbon to bring on the trip along with some sandwiches and other provisions. He drives to an all-night garage, arriving early in the morning. Bond hopes that the security guard will be tired and uninterested, but the man questions him in a friendly manner. Using as few words as possible, Bond assents that he's on a hunting trip and heads off into the woods with his gear.

A dog barks at Bond from a nearby farm, but otherwise, Bond passes through the woods unnoticed. He crosses the border to the United States and burns the map showing the smuggler's route. He imagines the sleeping men at Echo Lake, unaware that an executioner is coming to kill them.

In the woods, Bond is alone with his thoughts. He thinks about the mountains and about American food, animals, and furniture. Still, he climbs upward, until he reaches the pinnacle of the mountain, where he can see down to Echo Lake. Then, he carefully reviews the landscape and selects a spot from which he can get a good shot to the mansion's pool. He will need to cross a meadow to get to his cover.

The house begins to wake. A window opens, and smoke comes from the chimney. Bond begins to feel the tension mounting, and he imagines the bullet that he'll let fly from the Savage rifle. Bond considers these strangers, human beings who have never harmed him, and he takes a drink from his whiskey.

As quietly as possible, Bond moves down the mountainside. He stops when he hears a branch break, but then he hears nothing more. He starts through the meadow, crawling on his belly. A figure crawls behind him, but Bond is not aware until it's too late. At a verbal warning, Bond turns to see a beautiful young girl with a bow and arrow aimed at him.

The girl is Judy Havelock, and she has tracked von Hammerstein here to kill him. Judy tells Bond that, after killing her parents, von Hammerstein tried to strong-arm her into selling the property. He poisoned her favorite horse, shot her dog, and threatened to kill her. The police could do nothing, and so she has taken the law into her own hands. As they are talking, the occupants of the house come out onto the patio. Major Gonzales and his two goons are there, along with two girls and von Hammerstein.

Bond wants Judy to let him finish the job, but Judy insists on killing von Hammerstein herself. Bond tries to knock her out, but she stops him. She has been watching the



place, knows the occupants' routine, and has her plan ready. Bond has no choice but to acquiesce.

Judy doesn't have as much range with her bow as Bond does. She moves in closer to the pool. Bond waits for Judy to get her shot. The men down below conduct a shooting contest, aiming at empty bottles thrown into the air. One of the women is awarded as a prize.

Finally, the group moves to the pool. Von Hammerstein begins a dive, but something is wrong. When he finally surfaces, he's not moving. Judy has picked her moment for her shot. The other men pull out their weapons. Bond begins taking his shots from his cover. He picks off the two goons, but Major Gonzales finds cover. Bullets riddle the tree that is Bond's cover. Finally, Bond is able to get his killing shot.

Judy comes up to join Bond. Her arm is injured, and she is shaken by the bloody scene she's just witnessed. Bond is sympathetic. He binds her arm and tells her that she will come back to a motel with him. She seems like a different person, now that the need for revenge has gone out of her. Together, Bond and Judy flee the scene.

Chapter 2, For Your Eyes Only, pages 53-76 Analysis

The killing of von Hammerstein and his men contrasts the two perspectives of Judy and Bond. Judy is after private vengeance. Unlike M, she is not concerned with making a distinction between justice and revenge. Von Hammerstein has killed her parents, her horse, and her dog. He is making her life unbearable, and in fact, will kill her if she does not give in to his demands. Judy has no qualms about killing von Hammerstein. Even given the opportunity to allow Bond to kill him for her, she refuses. Judy is driven to kill for personal reasons.

Bond, on the other hand, is acting impersonally, in the interests of society, as sanctioned by M and through him, the British government. Although he is breaking the law, Bond is an instrument of society. He does have qualms about killing these people who have never harmed him. When he thinks about shooting them, Bond must reach for a drink. When Bond is watching them from afar, he is unhappy in his task. If Bond had a personal reason for killing them, he would feel better about the job.

Why does Bond feel that personal revenge is somehow more palatable than societal justice? Bond himself is an individualist. He works alone, without ties to anyone. His ability to function depends on his ability to go undetected and think independently. Because of the importance of individualism to Bond, personal revenge is more attractive to him than societal justice. Bond understands the needs of the individual in an emotional way, but he only understands the needs of the society in an intellectual way. When Bond is sitting at M's desk, discussing executing the villain, he has no uncertainty because he is distanced from the reality of the killing and intellectualizes it.

The villains remain distanced from the reader, and their actions, even while they are relaxed and enjoying the day, put them in an evil light. The men have a shooting contest

with one of the women as a prize, clearly treating the women as objects that they own. For the reader, this dehumanizes the criminals, allowing the reader to accept their deaths as just and right.



Chapter 3, Quantum of Solace

Chapter 3, Quantum of Solace Summary

Bond is conversing with the local governor in Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas. Bond was sent there to stop gun runners smuggling weapons to Castro in Cuba, and he's leaving the next day. Before leaving, though, he has to endure a post-dinner party conversation with the governor. The two men have nothing in common.

Bond throws out the remark that, if he ever marries, he'll marry a stewardess and be pampered all the time. The remark is untrue and basically meaningless, but it sparks a note of interest in the governor. He offers to tell Bond a tale, if it won't bore him, and Bond acquiesces because he'd rather listen than make conversation. The governor begins his story.

Phillip Masters is a quiet, socially awkward young man who becomes a civil servant. He takes his first job in Nigeria, where he befriends the locals and treats them kindly. This liberal attitude is unusual, but when a new superior arrives with similar liberal attitudes, Masters is praised for his abilities. Masters gets a new post in Bermuda.

On the flight back from Nigeria to London, Masters meets a stewardess named Rhoda Llewellyn, who flirts with him during the flight. He gets up the nerve to ask her out, and soon the two of them get married. Masters is ecstatic in his new marriage, and he brings his wife out to the Bahamas with him to start his new job.

After the couple arrives in the Bahamas, Rhoda begins to act restless. She becomes less and less wifely and solicitous and more demanding. Masters hits upon golf as a solution to her boredom, and he scrapes together enough money to buy Rhoda golf equipment, lessons, and a subscription to the country club. At the club, Rhoda finds her element.

Rhoda meets a young playboy named Tattersall, and she begins having an affair. Rhoda does not bother to try hiding her affair from her husband. She begins to treat him as if he doesn't even exist, not caring what he thinks or how he reacts. Masters's work begins to suffer, and his boss sends him away to a meeting in Washington, D.C. about fishing rights in order to get his head together and straighten out his personal problems.

While Masters is away, Tattersall breaks off his relationship with Rhoda. He is getting bored with her, and his family is pressuring him to end the illicit relationship. Rhoda prepared herself to reconcile with her husband. She imagines that when he returns, she will cry and apologize. Then, he will take her back.

When Masters returns from Washington, though, he tells Rhoda that he's divorcing her. He's planning to return to England, and he will not take Rhoda with him. In the meanwhile, he divides up the house and tells her that he will not speak with her except



in public. In public, they will pretend that their relationship is normal. The divorce will go through at the last minute before Masters leaves for England.

Rhoda tries to plead with Masters, but he will not speak with her or consider anything she has to say. Eventually, Rhoda accepts the situation. When Masters's departure nears, though, Rhoda makes an appointment to meet with him. She tells him that she has no money, nowhere to live, and no way to support herself, and she begs him to leave her a little bit of money to get by. Masters appears to relent. He tells her that she may keep the car and the radiogrammophone, their only notable personal possessions.

The divorce goes through and Masters leaves. When Rhoda tries to sell the car at the car lot, she finds out that Masters doesn't own it. In fact, he owes money on it and told the car lot that Rhoda would pay. Rhoda bursts into tears, and finally the owner agrees to take the car back and forgive the debt. Rhoda finds the same situation when she tries to sell the radiogrammophone, but this time, she must pay the debt. Rhoda is left with nothing.

Rhoda Masters is nearly forced into prostitution to support herself, but she gets a job at a large hotel. Some time later, a Canadian millionaire comes to the hotel, falls for her, and marries her. Meanwhile, Masters goes back to England, but his career never lives up to its promising beginning. He seems to have lost something.

The governor describes his idea of the Law of the Quantum of Solace, saying that once someone takes away the last modicum of human kindness from another person, the relationship is severed forever. The governor believes that Rhoda treated her husband completely inhumanly, and that's why he was driven to such revenge and would not be reconciled. Bond is amused by the story, especially when the governor reveals that Rhoda Masters's new husband is Harvey Miller. Harvey Miller and his wife were their dinner companions earlier in the evening, and Bond was completely bored with the woman.

Chapter 3, Quantum of Solace Analysis

Bond personally sympathizes with the arms runners getting weapons to Castro, but he puts them out of business because it's his job. Bond does not let his personal feelings get in the way of his work as a spy, which requires him to remain impersonal and detached so that he can maintain a position as an extension of the government instead of an individual. Bond lives with constant tension between his identity as an individual and his identity as an arm of the British government.

Bond's life is essentially one that's detached from other human beings and sincere human interactions. Up to this point in the novel, he has had two distinct, detached adventures. He's had two distinct relationships with women, and he's left them behind seemingly without a thought. In this chapter, the pace of adventure suddenly slows to a trickle. Bond's current job is explained away in a few sentences. The real story of this chapter is not a James Bond story, but the story within a story told by the governor.



The story of Rhoda and Phillip Masters is one of human treachery and human tragedy. It has the same elements of inhumanity and revenge that are evident in the story of Judy Havelock's revenge against von Hammerstein. However, in this case, there are no evil villains. Rhoda comes close to being a villain because her treatment of Phillip Masters is described as completely inhumane. However, she is also just a boring woman at the dinner party, pushed by human motives.

The "Quantum of Solace", just a small modicum of human kindness, is the difference between good and evil. The reader never sees a modicum of human kindness, a simple, sympathetic human emotion, from von Hammerstein or his men, and so it is easy to make him a villain. Similarly, Masters never gets a simple, small gesture of humanity from his wife. He is completely separated from her emotionally, and she becomes a villain to him. Revenge and mutual destruction occur because the warring parties do not consider each other human.

Bond comments at the end of this chapter that the human struggle detailed in the governor's narrative makes the violence of his life in international espionage seem cartoonish and empty. This chapter serves to bring Bond, and the reader, back to reality.



Chapter 4, Risico, pages 102-121

Chapter 4, Risico, pages 102-121 Summary

James Bond meets Kristatos in a restaurant in Rome. Bond has never met him before, but Kristatos carries off the clandestine meeting like a pro. The two men are meeting for a dangerous mission.

One week prior, M is irritated that he must send Bond on this mission. The Prime Minister himself had to convince M that drug smuggling is a big enough problem to send his best agent into danger. M explains that large quantities of heroin are being smuggled into Britain through Italy. Bond's assignment is to go to Italy, track down the drug smuggling ring, and stop them. The American anti-drug agency works with a man named Kristatos, a smuggler who feeds them information. Kristatos is Bond's contact. Bond has up to two hundred thousand pounds to spend to stop the smuggling.

Bond promises Kristatos fifty thousand pounds to help him stop the drug smuggling ring. Kristatos agrees. When he leaves the table, probably to phone a colleague, Bond is pleased. Meanwhile, though, at a table behind Bond, a man and a woman are watching him. The man knows that Bond is a spy and clearly despises Kristatos. The man goes into the office to make arrangements.

Unnoticed by Bond, the waiters, while ostensibly creating a new table for an incoming party, take one of the chairs from Bond's table and then replace it with a chair from the office. The actions pass unnoticed, as simply part of the hustle and bustle of the restaurant.

When Kristatos comes back to the table, he tells Bond that the drug smuggling ring is run by a man named Enrico Colombo. He gives Bond details of the smuggling operation. Kristatos wants Bond to promise to kill Colombo, and Bond believes that Kristatos must have a personal vendetta. Bond will not promise to kill the man, but he tells Kristatos that he will destroy Colombo if Colombo tries to eliminate him. Kristatos thinks about this and seems satisfied. Meanwhile, one of the waiters again takes away the chair. Colombo (the man at the other table) goes into the office, and he hears what's on the tape recorder hidden in the chair.

As Bond and Kristatos finish their conversation, Kristatos points out Colombo, sitting at the table in the back of the restaurant with a beautiful woman named Lisl Baum. As Bond gets up to leave, the woman and Colombo have a loud argument. The woman collides with Bond as she is storming out. She apologizes, and he offers to get her a taxi. Bond gets in the taxi with her, and during the ride, he tells her that he's a writer, writing a book about drug smuggling. He offers to give the woman a diamond clip in exchange for some information about drug smuggling. Bond makes an appointment to meet her the next day on one of the beaches by Venice.



Bond takes a train from Rome to Venice. He spends the day touring the city and establishing his cover as a well-to-do writer. After a night at a hotel, Bond spends the next morning trying to find out if he's being followed, but he doesn't detect any tail. He sends a witty postcard to his secretary. After lunch, he goes back to his hotel and arms himself with his Walther PPK. He heads out to the beach, ready for anything that might befall him.

Chapter 4, Risico, pages 102-121 Analysis

After Bond's brief encounter with normal life in the fourth chapter, Bond is thrust into another adventure. The disjointed pace of Bond's life and the brevity and superficiality of his encounters with the everyday reality of normal people are emphasized by this transition.

M's ethical concerns are again brought to the fore in the beginning of this chapter. M does not Bond used at the beck and call of any agency. He has strict guidelines for himself about the proper way to utilize the Secret Service. Only when drug smuggling is couched in terms of a threat to the nation does M allow Bond to go on this mission. M is also concerned with Bond's safety. From his position of power, M himself must play a restrained and concerned role and show a greater than normal Quantum of Solace. M represents the power entrusted by people in rulers, and so he bears a great responsibility.

The scene in the restaurant builds suspense. When the writer changes the point of view from Bond to Colombo and Lisl at the back of the restaurant, the goal is to create dramatic irony and therefore tension. The reader knows information that Bond does not. Colombo knows that Bond is a spy. Colombo has taped Bond's conversation and knows that Kristatos has identified him as the drug smuggler. Bond walks unknowingly into the next event, while the reader is keenly aware of the danger.



Chapter 4, Risico, pages 121-141

Chapter 4, Risico, pages 121-141 Summary

Bond sees the yellow dot of Lisl's umbrella in the distance. He walks up the sand and finds her with the top of her bathing suit down. She quickly pulls up the bikini top and chides Bond for being early. Bond begins asking Lisl questions, but Lisl seems reluctant to answer and glances at Bond's watch. Bond looks at the watch himself and then glances over his shoulder. Three men are coming up the beach.

Bond runs from the three approaching men, trying to judge the distance. Two men take a shortcut to cut him off, ignoring the danger signs on the area they're running through. Bond sees some fishermen in the distance, and he thinks he's safe. Then, an explosion comes from where two of his pursuers are running. One of the men is dead and the other disabled by a landmine in the dangerous area.

Just as Bond thinks he has a chance, he realizes that the fishermen he's running towards are actually Colombo's men, and Colombo is there with them. Bond has his gun out, threatening to shoot. Before the situation can be resolved, the other pursuer comes up behind Bond and knocks him out.

When Bond awakes, he's on Colombo's boat, the Colombino. His head is killing him, but he's treated as a guest by a sailor, who tells him to rest. Colombo comes to Bond's room and offers him food and drink. Bond says that Colombo did not need to kidnap him and tells Colombo that he suspected a trap.

Colombo is distressed to hear Bond say this. He feels responsible for the death of the man accidentally killed by a land mine. Still, Colombo doesn't trust Bond. He plays back the cassette tape from the restaurant and accuses Bond of agreeing to kill him. Bond points out that he did not actually agree to kill Colombo.

Colombo explains to Bond that Kristatos is not what he seems. He feeds false leads to the American agents, but in this instance, he needed someone important enough to appear to be the heroin smuggler. Colombo is a smuggler, but he never deals in drugs, which he believes is immoral. Colombo considers his own smuggling harmless.

Bond feels a fondness for Colombo and believes his story. Colombo says that he will show Bond the real smuggling ring. The next morning, the crew fortifies itself with coffee and rum and prepares for battle. Colombo explains to Bond that he'll be on his own in the fight and that he should be ready to die. Bond willingly agrees.

As the ship approaches its destination, Bond sees a crew loading what appear to be rolls of paper onto a ship. Actually, they contain heroin. The workers are alarmed as the Colombino approaches, and some sailors run into the warehouse to warn the others. When the Colombino is close enough, Bond jumps off the ship and runs into the warehouse. A man is there with a machine gun, and he begins firing. Bond is quick



enough to get him before he can do any real damage, and the machine gun goes wild for a moment as the gunner dies. Bond is soaked in raw opium from one of the damaged containers.

Bond runs out the back of the warehouse, and he sees Kristatos. The man sets an explosion. Bond's first shot at him misses, and Kristatos jumps into his waiting car to get away. Bond lets off more rounds and shoots Kristatos dead as he drives away. The man's foot is on the gas pedal, though, and the car drives off down the road with the dead man at the wheel.

Bond and Colombo talk over bacon, eggs, rum, and coffee on Colombo's ship. The smuggling ring is destroyed. Colombo praises Bond for killing the machine gunner and saving his men. Colombo lost only two sailors. The warehouse is on fire, and a million pounds' worth of raw opium is destroyed. Colombo explains that Kristatos was the real head of the heroin smuggling ring. He was supplied by the Russians, who were filtering heroin into Britain as a kind of psychological warfare.

At the end of the conversation, Colombo hints that Bond will find some relaxation with Lisl Baum. Bond protests, saying that she's Colombo's friend. Colombo shrugs of the distinction. He doesn't feel any ownership of Lisl. He knows that she will enjoy Bond's companionship, and he passes over Lisl's room key to Bond.

Chapter 4, Risico, pages 121-141 Analysis

As Bond approaches Lisl, the reader is aware that he is walking into a trap. When the men come up from behind, the action begins. Bond is on the run. The landmines add an extra element of violence to the scene, which ends in Bond being incapacitated. During action sequences like this where Bond fails, the reader is engrossed. After all, the reader follows the story from Bond's perspective, inside Bond's mind, and therefore, when Bond is in danger, the reader is vicariously in danger.

When Bond awakes on the boat, he instantly becomes friends with Colombo. The reader is faced again with the moral dilemmas of Bond's lifestyle. Colombo is a criminal, operating outside of the law. Bond, too, while sanctioned by the British government, operates outside of the law. They recognize in each other kindred spirits, perhaps in part because Colombo, like Bond, operates with some sort of personal moral code. Colombo refuses to deal in drug running but sees no harm in his other smuggling activities. He draws a sharp line between what is illegal and what is immoral.

In Bond's world, where his existence is secret and illicit, legality holds little importance. Bond is in many respects a criminal. When he assassinates von Hammerstein, Bond is breaking both international and US laws. His contact in the Italian drug scene is a known smuggler. His whole life is under the radar of the law. Ultimately, Bond makes decisions based on a moral code that supersedes the law, and so he has no qualms with befriending a criminal like Colombo, who also has his own moral and ethical codes.



Kristatos turns out to be a true criminal, feeding false information to the Americans. In fact, much as Bond one-ups SHAPE in the first chapter, he one-ups the American intelligence agencies in this chapter. Throughout the novel, Bond (and by extension, Britain) shows himself to be superior to governments around the world. Bond's superiority is illustrated well in the gunfight between Colombo's men and the smugglers. Bond is able to take out the machine gunner through quick and strategic thinking, and he saves the whole crew from destruction.



Chapter 5, The Hildebrand Rarity, pages 142-168

Chapter 5, The Hildebrand Rarity, pages 142-168 Summary

Bond is in the Seychelles islands off the coast of Africa. His mission there has been boring and diplomatic, and the results entirely uninteresting. There is no security threat here. Bond is merely biding time until he can leave by ship to his next destination.

Bond swims in the warm ocean waters, tracking a deadly looking stingray. He hunts the creature, calculatedly, from a distance. Bond rarely hunts fish, but this fish is an enemy, with its evil stinging tail. The local men used to use stingray tails as weapons to control their wives, but the cruel practice has been outlawed. Bond finally finds his moment and shoots the stingray. The beast fights him, and Bond drags it to the beach.

As Bond is struggling with his prey, a local landowner named Fidele Barbey meets him on the beach. Fidele tells Bond about an American millionaire named Krest with a luxurious yacht who wants to sail out to one of Fidele's reef islands. The millionaire is in search of a rare species of fish. Bond agrees to go on the expedition as a diver to pass the time until he can leave for his next mission.

When Bond gets on Krest's ship, the Wavekrest, he realizes that the trip is going to be trying. Krest is an obnoxious man who insists on calling Fidele "Fido" and James "Jim". He always wants to be in control and insists on belittling others. Krest's wife Liz, however, is a beautiful young English woman, and Bond feels bad that she has to endure Krest's mistreatment. He steels himself to make the best of the journey, promising not to lose his temper.

While Krest is giving Bond a tour of the ship, Bond notices that Krest has a stingray tail in his cabin. Bond mentions that they are illegal in the Seychelles, and Krest replies haughtily that his ship is US territory. Krest unconcernedly mentions that he calls it "the Corrector" and uses the tail to keep his wife in line. Jim thinks to himself that no jury would convict Liz for murdering him.

Krest details for Bond how the Krest Foundation works. He set it up to avoid paying taxes and used the foundation's funds to build his yacht. He ostensibly travels around the world finding specimens for the Smithsonian Institute, but in actuality, his goal is to travel the world tax-free. Liz mentions that the IRS has been questioning the yacht as a tax write-off, and so finding the Hildebrand Rarity is important to Krest. Krest is angry at her for revealing his personal financial issues and threatens to use the stingray tail on her.



The Hildebrand Rarity is the specimen the party is attempting to locate. The only known fish of this type was discovered off the coast of one of Fidele's reef islands by a scientist named Hildebrand. It is a pink and black tropical fish with spines in its fins.

When the party reaches the island, Bond and Fidele swim around the coastline looking for the target fish. On the first pass, they fail to find it, and then they stop for lunch. While they are eating, Krest goes into the water and luckily locates the creature. When Bond verifies that it's the fish they're looking for, Krest cannot stop himself from making jabs at the other two. After all, they're the experienced divers, and he's the one that found their prey.

Krest's plan to catch the fish involves dumping five gallons of a substance into the water that will suffocate all of the fish in the area. Bond is watching the fish carefully and is supposed to signal when it comes into range so that Krest can start pouring the poison into the water.

However, Bond feels suddenly contrary. Although he's killed many fish, at the moment he resents the idea that Krest will thoughtlessly destroy all these creatures for his own gain. Bond keeps finding himself thinking of the reef fish as people. Finally, Bond gives the signal, but secretly, he shoos the Hildebrand Rarity away from the area.

When Krest asks Bond what's happening, Bond says the fish swam away, and he's waiting for it to come back. The fish does return, and Bond tries to shoo it away again. The fish, though, swims in the reach of the poison and dies. Resentfully, Bond hands the dead fish to Krest.

Chapter 5, The Hildebrand Rarity, pages 142-168

Analysis

In the opening scene of this section, Bond hunts down and kills a stingray. He has no real reason to kill the fish, except that it has a harmful sting and looks evil to him. Bond sees the stingray as an enemy, and therefore he hunts it down. When Bond meets Krest, this man also is a dangerous creature. Like the stingray, he harms Bond's fellow humans. Krest is, in fact, in the act of using his deadly stinger on his wife. Why does Bond feel a reluctance to hunt down Krest? Bond does not particularly wish the man to live, but he doesn't feel it's his business to intrude. Krest isn't a high criminal or a danger to society. He's a personal criminal, and Bond feels his victim, Liz, should deal with Krest.

Krest is an example of someone who's lost every shred of human kindness, the Quantum of Solace. He is obnoxious and cruel to everyone. Krest even refuses to call his ship "she", saying it's ridiculous to humanize ships. Although Krest values his ship, he does not and cannot love even this inanimate object; he sees no reason to personify it.



Krest's disdain for others only begins with his wife. It includes his ship and stretches out to all living creatures. Krest hunts a harmless fish for no better reason than to maintain a tax shelter. In his ruthlessness, he's willing to kill thousands of fish to get what he wants. Bond chides himself for his reluctance to participate in Krest's scheme, but Bond is a man of human kindness. He personifies the fish and empathizes with them.

Bond also feels helpless to interfere with Krest's relationship with his wife. He sympathizes with her, but he does not do anything about it. Krest and Liz are man and wife, and the constrictions of society force Bond to remain uninvolved. Bond seems to transfer his protective feelings for Liz to the fish, and he tries to save it from Krest's poison. Bond, however, does not succeed, and this failure creates tension. What will happen to Liz?



Chapter 5, The Hildebrand Rarity, pages 168-182

Chapter 5, The Hildebrand Rarity, pages 168-182 Summary

The Wavekrest heads back with its booty, and Krest decides to have a celebration. He becomes drunk and even more obnoxious. Krest's violent tendencies rise toward the surface, and he seems to want to rile everyone around him: Bond, Fidele, and his wife. He tells Bond why England is no longer important in the world community, and Bond replies with a cutting jibe toward Americans. Krest seems to want to take out Bond's comments on his English wife.

Then, Krest begins riling Fidele, telling him how worthless his islands are and making snide comments about Fidele's family. Fidele seems to take it in stride. Bond is happy to be able to escape the unpleasant atmosphere, and he retires to the deck to spend the night. A few minutes later, Liz Krest follows Bond onto the deck. She makes sure he's comfortable and talks to him about the constellations visible above them. She seems starved for simple, friendly conversation. She tells him a little bit about her childhood in England and how she misses an ordinary life. Finally, she clasps his hand before heading off to bed.

Krest barges into the room at that moment, finding his wife holding Bond's hand. He accuses her of "necking" and calls Bond the "help". Bond steps toward him threateningly and tells him to go to bed. Krest continues his rant, though, and threatens to have the crew throw Bond overboard into the ocean and then "accidentally" run over him with the ship. When Krest is done blustering, James still meets his eyes. Krest ushers his wife ahead of him off the deck and toward their room.

Bond takes a shower and begins making up a bed out of cushions on the deck. He hears a scream and runs toward the Krests' stateroom. He pauses. He can hear Liz Krest sobbing, but he does not want to interfere in someone else's marriage. Bond heads back toward the deck, and he hears another scream coming from the room. He mentally blames the girl for her cowardice in not ridding herself of Krest.

As Bond is just about to fall asleep, he is awakened by Krest snoring on the deck above him. Bond decides that if the snoring doesn't stop in ten minutes, he'll go sleep in Fidele's cabin. Just as Bond gets up to move, he hears a crash and horrific sounds from above him. Bond goes to the upper deck to see what's happened.

Bond finds Krest's body. His face is distorted from strangulation, and the cause of death is hanging from his mouth. It's the Hildebrand Rarity. Someone took the fish and stuffed it in his mouth while he was sleeping. Because of the sharp spines in its fins, Krest could not remove it. Bond is appalled at the horrible scene.



Bond wipes the lid of the jar which had been holding the fish and replaces it. Then, he considers the corpse. He is unsure whether Liz killed the man or whether Fidele finally snapped after some unpardonable comment. Bond realizes that, if the man is found murdered, there will be an inquest, and all three of them will be suspect.

Carefully, Bond cuts one of the ropes of the hammock, leaving it frayed to look like an accident. Then, he shoves the body off the boat and into the water. It will look as if the hammock broke and Krest fell off of the boat during the night. Bond is certain there will be no further investigation. He goes to bed and this time, drops off to sleep immediately.

In the morning, Bond, Fidele, and Liz all sleep in. Bond looks for clues in the others' behavior to see if he can decide who is guilty, but he's unsuccessful. Finally, they find the broken hammock and search the boat. Krest is, of course, nowhere to be found, and they come to the conclusion that he fell off the deck during the night.

When the Wavekrest arrives back at the port, Fidele reassures Liz that he knows all the officials. There won't be any problems. Bond wonders if Fidele murdered Krest, counting on his connections to free him. Then Liz offers to sail Bond to his next destination in the Wavekrest, and he knows a four-day journey with the girl would be a pleasant experience. Still, he's unsure. Is she the murderer?

Fidele is the one who first mentions the fish. He reminds Liz that she must ship it to the Smithsonian immediately. Does that mean Fidele is innocent and doesn't know the fish is missing? Liz replies coolly that she's decided to donate the fish to the British Museum instead. Bond suspects that he's guilty, but he's left uncertain.

Chapter 5, The Hildebrand Rarity, pages 168-182

Analysis

Liz Krest wants normal, average things. She enjoys looking up at the stars and talking about constellations. She thinks about going back to her hometown in England. Although she has a "fairy tale" life, it's turned out to be a nightmare. Her yearning for average things shows that Liz regrets her decision to trade kindness for wealth. Staying with Krest amounts to just that. Liz gains material goods but loses human kindness and connection.

Bond seems to exhibit some wishful thinking after he discovers Krest is murdered. He is horrified by the way Krest died, and although he has no compunction against killing, Bond is reluctant to become involved with someone who could kill so cruelly. Liz Krest, though, is like Phillip Masters. She has been treated without a modicum of kindness, a Quantum of Solace. She takes her vengeance with complete cruelty.

While Bond is repelled, he is also empathetic. The signs seem to indicate that Liz killed her husband. She surely had the strongest motive. That night, Bond hears Krest abusing her cruelly. She also changes her mind at the last minute about giving the fish to the Smithsonian, a possible sign that she knows the fish is missing. Bond even sees

sweat on her brow, but he says to himself that it must be the heat. He wants to believe that she's innocent, and so he refuses to become completely convinced of her guilt. This willingness to doubt shows that Bond still maintains his Quantum of Solace. He wants to be kind to Liz and enjoy life with her, at least for a few days.



Characters

James Bond

James Bond is agent 007 in Her Majesty's Secret Service. In this novel, he moves around the world from one adventure to another. The novel explores both Bond's work in the secret service—destroying a drug ring, assassinating a criminal, and uncovering a cell of spies—and the downtime between Bond's missions. In this way, it contrasts Bond's highly charged existence with everyday life and shows Bond's perspective on issues of morality and human relationships.

In Bond's world, he necessarily takes risks and puts himself into dangerous situations. He comes into contact with death on a day-to-day basis, and he sees death as a part of everyday life. Bond is a killer, and he willingly assassinates von Hammerstein in the same way that he assassinates a stingray. On the other hand, Bond does not extend his violent behavior into day-to-day life. Even though he sees Krest abusing his wife, Bond's only rebellion is to try to save the fish Krest is trying to catch. Bond kills only professionally, and even then, when he breaks up the ring of spies in France, he tries to kill as few men as possible.

Still, Bond seems sympathetic to those who kill for personal reasons. When Judy Havelock is set on killing von Hammerstein, Bond shows admiration for her. His sympathy for Liz Krest is shown in his reluctance to believe she's the killer.

Bond's lifestyle is transient. He cannot maintain deep personal relationships because he is constantly moving from one adventure to the next. Bond enjoys relationships with women, but these are transient also. Perhaps one of the reasons Bond admires independent, sexually free women is because he feels free to have fleeting sexual relationships with them, which he knows must end quickly.

M

M is Bond's superior officer in Her Majesty's Secret Service, and he is responsible for sending Bond on missions. As the officer in charge, M has the moral responsibility of his agents, and he feels this responsibility greatly. When M sends Bond to kill the murderous Cuban responsible for his friends' death, M has moral qualms about the mission. He does not believe in using the Secret Service for personal vendettas. Bond relieves M's quandary when he agrees that, for the good of all Britain, the criminal needs to be eliminated.

M has a set of ethical codes that he uses in assigning Secret Service missions. He balks at letting his agents get involved in closing down drug-smuggling rings, since he considers it both dangerous and not the purview of the agency. However, the Prime Minister convinces M that drugs are a danger to the country and therefore closing down



a drug-smuggling ring is appropriate work for the Secret Service. This argument is fulfilled when Bond learns the Russians are behind the drug smuggling.

M is also highly intuitive and an excellent judge of characters and situations. When the motorcycle messenger from SHAPE is killed, M intuits that the killer must be someone that everyone takes for granted, such as a janitor. He also thinks that Bond has just the kind of mind that will readily detect this type of invisible person. M turns out to be completely correct; Bond thinks of M's words when he learns of the gypsies. They're just the type of characters that no one will probably notice.

Mary Ann Russell

Mary Ann Russell is agent Number 765, a pretty, blond Secret Service agent assigned to Paris. She's a fabulous driver and a good sport. She meets Bond when he's sent to investigate the death of a messenger, and after Bond uncovers the spy ring and makes plans to capture the villains, Mary Ann thinks he's taking too much risk. She can't help being in at the close herself, which is lucky for Bond. Mary Ann saves Bond's life in a sticky situation.

Wing Commander Rattray

Rattray is the head of Station F, the branch of the British Secret Service in Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Havelock

The Havelocks are an elderly couple, old friends of M. They own a large estate in Jamaica. Cuban gangsters try to strong-arm the Havelocks into selling their estate, and when they refuse, the gangsters murder them.

Judy Havelock

Judy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Havelock. After her parents are murdered by Cuban gangsters, the gangsters begin trying to harass Judy into selling the estate. Judy decides that she must take revenge against the lead criminal. She tracks him down to a rented estate in Canada, and she kills him with a crossbow while Bond executes the other gangsters in an extended gunfight. Afterwards, Judy is horrified at the bloody scene, and she goes off with Bond to recover.

Major Gonzales

Major Gonzales is a Cuban goon who leads the gunmen that kill Mr. and Mrs. Havelock.



von Hammerstein

Von Hammerstein is a Cuban gangster, the lead criminal behind Major Gonzales. He is the man who had Judy Havelock's parents killed.

Colonel Johns

Bond meets with a Canadian colonel who helps him start on his mission to kill von Hammerstein. The colonel calls himself "Colonel Johns", since his first name is John, but his real last name is unknown.

The Nassau Governor

The governor tells Bond the story of Mrs. Harvey Miller after a dinner party.

Harvey Miller

Miller is a Canadian millionaire visiting the Bahamas.

Mrs. Harvey Miller/Rhoda Masters, née Lewellyn

Bond considers Mrs. Miller to be a boring dinner companion when he first meets her, but after the dinner party, the Nassau governor tells him the story of her youth. She begins as a stewardess and marries a civil servant. However, she becomes bored and has an affair with a local playboy. She mistreats her husband so badly that he divorces her and leaves her with nothing. Eventually, she marries a Canadian millionaire. Bond is surprised and amused at learning the checkered past of this seemingly insipid woman.

Phillip Masters

When the Nassau governor tells Bond a story, he makes up the name Phillip Masters to keep his friend's name confidential. Masters marries a stewardess, and after she is unfaithful, he divorces her. Masters is more vengeful than merely leaving her, though. He leaves his wife in the Bahamas with no means of support. When he is about to leave, she begs him to give her a small amount of money to survive. Masters pretends to give in, and he lets his wife keep the car and a radiogrammophone. When his wife tries to sell them, she finds that Masters owed money on both and promised the sellers that she would pay the outstanding balances.

Masters's act of revenge is described as a reaction to his wife's treatment. According to the governor, Masters' wife treats him without a grain of humanity, as if he doesn't exist. She doesn't even trouble to hide her affair. Masters visits retribution on her, repaying her emotional destruction with financial humiliation. As a woman, Masters' wife has few



options left with no money and no husband. Masters seems to live a deeply emotional life, becoming first euphoric in love, then falling into depression, and finally harboring a deeply resentful hatred of his unfaithful wife.

Tattersall

Tattersall is the young playboy with whom Rhoda Masters has an affair.

Kristatos

Kristatos is a smuggler. Although he pretends to work with the Americans as a double-agent, Kristatos is actually working for the Russians, running a ring of crooks smuggling heroin into Britain.

Enrico Colombo

Colombo is a smuggler with the nickname "The Dove". Kristatos falsely identifies Colombo as the head of the heroin smuggling ring, and later Colombo kidnaps Bond. Once Bond is on board Colombo's ship, Colombo explains the true situation and works in partnership with Bond to destroy the real heroin smuggling operation and its leader, Kristatos. Colombo is morally opposed to running drugs and feels that his illegal activities are harmless. Bond instantly likes Colombo and becomes friends with the boyish smuggler.

Lisl Baum

Lisl Baum is a woman who runs with Enrico Colombo. She acts as his agent to entice Bond into a trap, but she feels real attraction to Bond. After Bond destroys the drug smuggling ring, Lisl is happy to invite Bond into her bed.

Fidele Barbey

Fidele is a local landowner in the Seychelles islands off the coast of Africa. He owns the reef island where Krest hopes to find the rare fish called the Hildebrand Rarity for the Smithsonian Institute. Fidele is generally a good-humored man, but Bond suspects that Fidele could murder Krest if he were pushed far enough.

Milt Krest

Milt Krest is an obnoxious American millionaire with a German heritage who continuously makes barbs at those around him. Krest beats his wife with a stingray tail when she misbehaves or disobeys him. He tries to evade his taxes and wants to control



everything about him. Krest has a luxurious yacht that he built with the tax-exempt funds in his charitable foundation, ostensibly for scientific expeditions for the Smithsonian. However, his real goal is to spend six months of the year sailing around the globe tax free. Krest is being hounded by the IRS to show proof of the scientific value of his "exhibitions".

Krest is in the Seychelles islands in search of scientific specimens. Bond tries to ignore the man's horrific behavior and stays out of the conflicts between husband and wife, even though he knows that Krest is cruelly abusing her. When Krest turns up murdered, Bond disposes of the body to prevent an inquiry into the death.

Liz Krest

Liz Krest is the beautiful wife of millionaire Milt Krest. Although she describes her married life as a kind of fairy tale, in actuality she endures cruel and constant verbal and physical abuse. Bond wonders why Liz does not leave or murder her husband. Finally, it seems, she is pushed too far. When Krest turns up murdered, Bond is unsure whether Liz or Fidele has murdered him, probably because of wishful thinking. He is unsure about going off sailing with Liz if she is the murderess.



Objects/Places

Paris

Bond spends time in Paris at the beginning of the book, on his way back from a mission. Bond feels that Paris hasn't been the same ever since the war.

The Underground Lair

The spies who kill the SHAPE messenger operate out of an underground lair in the woods, complete with a periscope disguised as a flower.

Station F

Station F is the British Secret Service headquarters in Paris.

SHAPE

SHAPE is the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers, Europe, a NATO security agency.

Content

Content is the Jamaican estate of Mr. and Mrs. Havelock. Cuban gangsters try to buy the estate, and they murder the Havelocks to try to acquire it.

Echo Lake

Echo Lake is a millionaire's retreat in the northeastern US, near the Canadian border, where von Hammerstein is staying.

The Savage

The Savage is the rifle that Bond gets from the Canadian colonel to use to execute von Hammerstein and his men.

Nassau

Nassau is the capital of Bermuda, where Bond hears the story of Phillip Masters from the local governor after a dinner party.



Law of the Quantum of Solace

The Nassau governor comes up with the idea of the Law of the Quantum of Solace, which states that as soon as one person begins treating a partner as if he or she does not exist, the damage between the two becomes insurmountable.

The Restaurant in Rome

Kristatos and Bond meet in a restaurant in Rome that's run by Enrico Colombo. The waiters are trained to plant a tape recorder by Bond's seat at a command from Colombo.

The Bagni Alberoni

Lisl Baum agrees to meet Bond at a secluded beach, the Bagni Alberoni near Venice. The meeting is a trap, and Colombo has arranged to kidnap Bond there.

The Colombina

The Colombina is Enrico Colombo's ship.

The Wavekrest

The Wavekrest is Milt Krest's luxurious yacht, built tax free from funds from his charitable foundation.

The Krest Foundation

Milt Krest has a charitable foundation called the Krest Foundation benefiting the Smithsonian Institute. However, Krest's purpose in establishing the foundation is to avoid taxes wherever possible.

The Hildebrand Rarity

The Hildebrand Rarity is a rare tropical fish. Only one such fish has ever been documented, by a man named Hildebrand off the reefs of the Seychelles islands. Milt Krest goes in search of this fish for the Smithsonian Institute. This fish ultimately becomes the murder weapon used to smother Milt Krest.



The Corrector

Milt Krest has a stingray tail called "the Corrector", which he uses to punish his wife.

Chagrin Island

Chagrin Island is a small reef island in the Seychelles. Fidele Barbey owns the island, and he agrees to take Milt Krest there in search of the Hildebrand Rarity.



Themes

Quantum of Solace

The third chapter is titled Quantum of Solace, and the governor of Nassau explains his idea of the Law of the Quantum of Solace. He believes that if one person ceases to give even the smallest of human comforts to another, their relationship becomes damaged beyond repair. The person acting inhumanely becomes perceived as inhuman to the other. A permanent division of inhumanity and lack of empathy is established. In the governor's story, this leads Masters to treat his wife with complete cruelty.

The Quantum of Solace applies in Bond's world as well. The story of Rhoda Masters parallels in many respects the story of Liz Krest. Both women are working at hotels when they are saved from poverty by marrying millionaires. While Rhoda's story focuses on her first husband and she is the injurious party, Liz's story focuses on her life with an abusive millionaire. Her husband does not show the Quantum of Solace; he refuses her even the smallest human kindness. This leads her to take horrible revenge.

The villains that Bond faces often lack any human quality. They show no empathy toward anyone, and as a result, the reader and Bond feel no empathy toward them. The Law of the Quantum of Solace seems to apply. Villains are simply people who turn off their human kindness and show no emotion toward their fellow men. Von Hammerstein, even from a distance, shows a complete lack of human caring.

Still, Bond himself recognizes von Hammerstein as a human being, even as he reaches for the trigger. Bond is cautious not to kill the spies he uncovers in France unless it is necessary. Bond rebels at the idea of murdering thousands of fish to capture one specimen. Bond always shows a Quantum of Solace, a small bit of human kindness, and so Bond remains a hero.

Revenge

Bond is a killer, but Bond is also an instrument of social justice for the government. In Bond's job, he kills, not out of a personal need, but out of duty. Bond, however, understands the need for revenge and even approves of it. When Judy Havelock shows up to murder von Hammerstein, Bond admires her. She is driven by revenge, and although she gets in the way of Bond's plans, Bond can't help but approve of her. Judy's revenge is contrasted with Bond's duty, and Bond wishes that he had a personal reason to kill. Killing for intellectual reasons instead of emotional reasons weighs on his conscience.

However, Bond's feelings about revenge are somewhat clouded. When he realizes how Krest is abusing his wife, Bond thinks that she should kill him. No jury, he feels, would convict her, and Bond even fantasizes about telling her that it's okay to kill her husband if she wants to. Still, when he suspects Liz Krest of murdering him, he balks at going



away with her. He somehow feels that the revenge she took, stuffing the dead fish into his mouth and leaving him to suffocate, was too horrible, much as Phillip Masters's revenge upon his wife seems too cruel. Masters never recovers from his experience, and perhaps Liz Krest also cannot recover from her experience and her terrible revenge.

Also, Liz Krest hides her deed, pretending to be innocent. Bond has no problem with going away with Judy Havelock, whose revenge is open and honest. Judy merely plans to shoot her target and walk back to town, and afterward, she is shaken and horrified. She is, in other words, human. Her revenge seems pure. She does not try to hide, and she is not broken by the experience. The idea of the Quantum of Solace seems to apply to revenge. The desire for vengeance is natural and even pure, but if the killer leaves behind human kindness entirely, horror for another's suffering, then that killer is lost.

Women in Society

Bond's world is typically full of beautiful, strong, adventurous, and sexually free women who enjoy brief flings with the attractive agent. This novel is no exception. Judy Havelock is an independent girl, able to resist the threats of von Hammerstein and track him down to a remote hideout for revenge. Mary Ann Russell is a fast-driving and sharp-shooting agent with a soft spot for Bond in her off-hours. These women are set apart as examples of excellence in womanhood: self-willed, independent, and willing to fight.

The story of Rhoda Masters addresses a more complex issue of womanhood. Rhoda is portrayed as cold and manipulative. She marries not out of love, but out of a desire to get away from her life and into a more exciting world. Once she arrives, she's dissatisfied. In a way, Rhoda is also an adventurer, but her desire for adventure is stifled. Instead of being independent and creating her own life, though, she relies on and therefore uses a man to sustain her. Because she lacks a Quantum of Solace—treats him with no human kindness—he leaves her with no home or means of support.

The underlying issue in this story, however, is that Rhoda does not have the means, as a woman, to be independent in the way a man can be. She can work as a stewardess for an airline or a hotel receptionist, but she has few real options. What are her choices to build a life for herself, except marriage? The novel seems to advocate that women like Rhoda must cast off their trapped way of thinking and find true independence in order to escape a societal trap.

The story of Liz Krest echoes that of Rhoda. Bond constantly mentally chastises Liz for being too weak and cowardly. He wants her to leave her husband or murder him instead of taking his abusive punishments. She sees her marriage as a fairy tale come true, but it comes at the price of being in the power of a violent man. What are the forces that hold Liz in this negative relationship? Is it fair for Bond to require a woman to have the strength to extricate herself from this kind of situation? Are the forces of double standards in society too strong for women to fight against? Bond seems to say that a

woman of character will stand up, be independent, and take on the challenges of poverty and societal disapproval without fear.

Style

Point of View

The novel has a third-person semi-omniscient narrator and is told mainly from the point of view of James Bond. The reader is able to get inside of James Bond's head, hear his thoughts, and understand his point of view. Bond is stricken with conscience as he waits to assassinate von Hammerstein and his men. Bond is tempted to advise Liz Krest to kill her husband, knowing no jury would convict her. The reader sees these deadly events through Bond's point of view. For Bond, death is an everyday occurrence, but killing also has its ethical rules and moral restrictions.

The story of Phillip Masters in the third chapter, though, has a secondary narrator. Although the point of view is still James Bond's, the story is told by the character of the governor. The governor becomes the narrator for this chapter, filtering the story of Phillip Masters through his own point of view. While James Bond is separated from everyday life, living in a dramatic spy world, the governor lives in a prosaic world and deals with the prosaic problems of human relationships.

The governor's position as an everyday person allows him to tell an everyday human drama, one that is far from Bond's world of murder and crime. Still, the governor is able to identify and name the idea of the Quantum of Solace, the kindness every person needs to get (and give) to be human. The governor's point of view is contrasted with Bond's point of view, but the idea of the Quantum of Solace finds a point of tangency between the two viewpoints, marking it as universal.

Setting

Fleming's novel moves around the world almost carelessly. From Paris to Canada to Bermuda to Italy to the Seychelles, Bond covers the entire globe in the space of a few adventures. His globetrotting has clearly become mundane to him. Paris isn't what it used to be before the war. Nassau is boring, filled with droll millionaires who don't even know how to gossip.

Bond does not enjoy society, and he's bored when he's not on a mission. He doesn't like being "stuck" in the Bahamas or the Seychelles, waiting to be off on his next adventure. The pleasure of reef diving or dining with millionaires is lost on Bond, who is disconnected from the lives of normal people.

The novel contrasts exotic settings like Bermuda and the Seychelles with Bond's boredom and nonchalance. This emphasizes how out of the ordinary world Bond is. He lives his life at such a high key that vacation spots which would thrill most people are tiresome. At the same time, the striking, round-the-world locations increase the level of excitement for the reader.



Bond's globetrotting also shows Britain to be a powerful player in the world stage. Britain's people are still spread out in colonies like Jamaica and Bermuda, and Britain's politics touch Europe, North America, Africa—every corner of the globe. As Bond travels the world, encompassing every corner, he represents not just an individual but the British government. Since Bond himself seems in charge everywhere he goes, out-investigating European investigators and moving undetected by impotent American governments, his adventures mark the superiority of Britain on the world stage.

Language and Meaning

The language of the narration and of James Bond's thoughts is sophisticated, marking Bond, for all his action-oriented adventures, as an intellectual and even thoughtful person. Bond lives in the visceral, though, and the writer uses descriptive language to set the exotic scenes of the book: Bond swimming through the ocean on a hunt to kill a stingray, or Bond hiking through the mountains of the northeastern US on a hunt to kill a villain. As Bond travels through the world, the exquisite settings come to life through the author's language.

The novel is also full of dramatic action sequences, and Fleming again uses descriptive language to detail the struggles of life and death. The writing sometimes becomes short, staccato sentences, punctuating important action and the fast pace of Bond's thoughts as he's embroiled in a fight: "The dead body of the gunman jerked. Too low! Bond reloaded and took fresh aim".

The writer marks each character as good or evil based on descriptions. Bond instantly likes Colombo when he first sees the man. Kristatos is marked as an excellent operator, but his heavy accent gives him a sinister aspect. The character of Krest is developed through his obnoxious language. Krest insists on calling James Bond "Jim", and he insists on calling Fidele "Fido". These nicknames hint at Krest's lack of empathy for the people around him, and throughout his conversation, he uses snide remarks to chide and perturb those around him.

Structure

The book is structured in an unusual way, divided into five seemingly separate stories, each one its own lengthy chapter. The first two stories seem to be traditional James Bond adventures, where he uses his skills as an investigator and an assassin to rid the world of enemies of Great Britain. During each adventure, Bond forms a temporary attachment to a beautiful young girl.

During the third chapter, in the center of the novel, the story takes a new turn. The chapter is devoted to a story about a young man who marries a stewardess, who then mistreats him. The man wants kindness and human connection, and the lack of it turns him spiteful. He takes a cruel revenge on his wife, but life goes on and she rebounds, while he does not. This story serves to pull the reader away from the fantasy world of James Bond and draw comparisons between the themes of Bond's world and the reality



of human life. The story contains revenge, love, inhumanity, and even villainy, but in the context of normal people instead of international intrigue. Both Bond and the reader must contrast the realities of most people's lives with the fantasies of Bond's life.

The fourth chapter again details a traditional James Bond adventure, but the fifth chapter provides another departure. Bond finds himself caught in the drama of an abusive, obnoxious husband and his beautiful wife. Bond remains an outsider, but the moral quandaries of revenge and killing are brought to the surface. The disjointed structure of the novel highlights Bond's detached, disjointed style of life as well as draws attention to the moral difficulties involved in Bond's world.



Quotes

"You happened to be available and more or less on the spot, and he said you had the sort of mind that might pick up the invisible factor. I asked him what he meant, and he said that at all closely guarded headquarters there's bound to be an invisible man—a man everyone takes so much for granted that he just isn't noticed—gardener, window cleaner, postman. I said that SHAPE had thought of that, and that all those sort of jobs were done by enlisted men. M told me not to be so literal-minded and hung up." Chap. 1, p. 13

"The invisible factor. The invisible man. The people who are so much part of the background that you don't know if they're there or not. Six men and two girls and they hardly spoke a word of French. Good cover, gipsies." Chap. 1, p. 21

"Not wanting to kill, he had kept the safety catch up. He tried to get his thumb to it. A boot hit him in the side of the head and he let the gun go and fell back. Through a red mist he saw the muzzle of the gun pointing at his face. The thought flashed through his mind that he was going to die—die for showing mercy...!" Chap. 1, p. 30

"'Damn it,' M's eyes glittered impatiently. 'That's just what I mean! You rely on me. You won't take any damned responsibility yourself.' He thrust the stem of his pipe towards his chest. 'I'm the one who has to decide if a thing is right or not.' The anger died out of his eyes. The grim mouth bent sourly. He said gloomily: 'Oh well, I suppose it's what I'm paid for. Somebody's got to drive the bloody train.' M put his pipe back in his mouth and drew on it deeply to relieve his feelings." Chap. 2, p. 43

"Bond looked thoughtfully down at his trigger finger. He crooked it slowly, feeling in his imagination the cool curve of the metal. Almost automatically, his left hand reached out for the flask." Chap. 2, p. 57

"But for Bond it was different. He had no personal motives against them. This was merely his job—as it was the job of a pest control officer to kill rats. He was the public executioner appointed by M to represent the community." Chap. 2, p. 69

"Bond didn't like Nassau. Everyone was too rich. The winter visitors and the residents who had houses on the island talked of nothing but their money, their diseases and their servant problems. They didn't even gossip well." Chap. 3, p. 77

"'Incurable disease, blindness, disaster—all these can be overcome. But never the death of common humanity in one of the partners. I've thought about this and I've invented a rather high-sounding title for this basic factor in human relations. I have called it the Law of the Quantum of Solace.'" Chap. 3, p. 93

"Suddenly the violent dramatics of his own life seemed very hollow. The affair of the Castro rebels and the burned out yachts was the stuff of an adventure-strip in a cheap newspaper. He had sat next to a dull woman at a dull dinner party and a chance remark



had opened for him the book of real violence—of the Comédie Humaine where human passions are raw and real, where Fate plays a more authentic game than any Secret Service conspiracy devised by Governments." Chap. 3, p. 100

"The state of M's temper was also explained. There was nothing that made him more angry than having to divert his staff from their primary duty. This duty was espionage, and when necessary sabotage and subversion. Anything else was a misuse of the Service and of Secret Funds which, God knows, were meagre enough." Chap. 4, p. 105

"He did not notice the casual progress of the spare chair from its fresh table to another, and then to another, and finally through the door marked UFFICIO. There was no reason why he should." Chap. 4, p. 115

"He held out his hand. Bond took it. Suddenly the two men were friends. Bond felt the fact. He said awkwardly, 'All right Colombo,' and went out of the saloon and along to his cabin." Chap. 4, p. 133

"Now he proposed to kill the sting-ray because it looked so extraordinarily evil." Chap. 5, p. 142

"Inside the reef, who was the predator in the world of small fishes? Who did they fear? Small barracuda? An occasional bill-fish? Now, a big, a fully grown predator, a man called Krest, was standing in the wings, waiting. And this one wasn't even hungry. He was just going to kill—almost for fun." Chap. 5, p. 166

"Bond lit a cigarette to cover his hesitation. Four days in a beautiful yacht with this girl! But the tail of that fish sticking out of the mouth! Had she done it? Or had Fidele, who would know that his uncles and cousins on Mahe would somehow see that he came to no harm?" Chap. 5, p. 181

"James Bond noticed that the seat dew had now gathered at her temples. But, after all, it was a desperately hot evening. . ." Chap. 5, p. 182



Topics for Discussion

To James Bond, when is it acceptable to kill someone?

To M, sending Bond out to kill for personal vengeance is not acceptable, but sending him out to kill for societal justice is. Yet Bond feels bad about killing when the victim is not a personal enemy. Why?

The third chapter of this James Bond novel is a story within a story and contains no action. What is the significance of the story of the stewardess, Rhoda Masters?

Why is it important that Rhoda Masters is a stewardess, someone whose job is to care for others?

Bond is a killer, and he seems to sanction personal vengeance. Yet, at the end of the novel, Bond does not want to go off with Liz Krest if she killed her husband. Why not?

Rhoda Masters and Liz Krest are both at the mercy of their husbands. What societal pressures put these women at disadvantages in their marriage?

James Bond makes friends with Colombo, even though the man is a smuggler. Why is Bond so comfortable with this outlaw?