

# **From Russia With Love Study Guide**

**From Russia With Love by Ian Fleming**

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# Plot Summary

*From Russia With Love* by Ian Fleming is a novel centered around the infamous British MI5 spy, James Bond. In this installment of the Bond saga, Bond is targeted for elimination by the Russian intelligence agencies. To lure Bond to his death, the Russians have enlisted the help of a beautiful woman to seduce the famous spy. As Bond falls in love with this gorgeous woman, he allows his defenses to slip, making himself vulnerable to the Russian plot. *From Russia With Love* is more romantic than the previous Bond novels giving the reader unique insight into this much loved character.

Grant, a killer for the secret killing machine of the MGB, is lounging by the pool when he gets word that he is needed in Moscow. Grant rushes to Moscow at the same time the leaders of the various Russian intelligence agencies are meeting with the leader of SMERSH. They must choose an intelligence agency of an enemy country to attack. They debate several and finally decide on England. Within the English Secret Service is an agent named Bond who has interfered with several Russian projects in the past and is popular with his fellow spies. They decide if Bond were killed and his reputation ruined, it would offer a deep blow to his agency.

A death warrant is issued and a plan is designed. The Russians use a beautiful woman to lure Bond out of London. The lure works and Bond rushes to Istanbul in order to help this woman defect. The woman, Tatiana Romanova, has declared that she wants to defect to England because she is in love with Bond, a man she knows only by reputation. In exchange for Bond coming personally to help her, Tatiana has agreed to hand over a coding machine that the British would really like to have.

In Istanbul, Bond meets Darko Kerim, the leader of the British substation in Istanbul. Bond likes this man on sight. The two men spend a great deal of time together over the next few days because Kerim believes Bond should not sit in one place and wait for Tatiana to approach him. During this time, Bond not only sees more of Istanbul than he ever wanted, but he becomes involved in a plot against Kerim by a local gang who work for the Russians. This plot has nearly killed Kerim once with a bomb and they attack Bond and Kerim a second time while they are visiting a gypsy friend of Kerim's. Kerim decides he must take out their leader in order to stop these attacks. Bond goes with Kerim and watches as he executes this man in cold blood.

Tatiana approaches Bond that night. Tatiana is in Bond's bed naked when he comes back to the hotel. Bond and Tatiana spend the night together after deciding how to proceed. Bond wants to get the machine and take Tatiana to Britain by plane, but Tatiana insists on the Orient Express. This choice makes Bond uneasy, but he likes Tatiana and decides to indulge her. Bond talks Kerim into taking the train as well. Kerim immediately recognizes the three Russians they saw in a meeting a few days before on the train and decides to get them off. Kerim bribes a few officials and has two of these men off the train, making Bond feel more relaxed about the situation. However, Kerim is still nervous and wants Bond to leave the train and fly to London. Bond refuses.



The next morning, Kerim is found murdered. Bond decides to stay on the train, however. A man boards the train and Bond thinks he is another MI5 agent. The man agrees to share the guard duties and stays with Bond and Tatiana in their stateroom. However, the man is Grant, the assassin, and the next morning he allows his identity to be known. Bond is told that it is a plan to kill him and make it look as though he killed Tatiana and then killed himself over a scandal in which Bond used Tatiana to get the code machine. Bond waits for the killer to make his move and then he attacks, getting the better of Grant and killing him instead. Bond then goes after Grant's boss, Klebb, and manages to trap her. However, Klebb gets the better of Bond, poisoning him before anyone notices what has happened.



# Chapters 1-3

## Chapters 1-3 Summary

*From Russia With Love* by Ian Fleming is a novel centered around the infamous British MI5 spy James Bond. In this installment of the Bond saga, Bond is targeted for elimination by the Russian intelligence agencies. To lure Bond to his death, the Russians have enlisted the help of a beautiful woman to seduce the famous spy. As Bond falls in love with this gorgeous woman, he allows his defenses to slip, making himself vulnerable to the Russian plot. *From Russia With Love* is more romantic than the previous Bond novels giving the reader unique insight into this much loved character.

A man lounges beside his pool, sunbathing, when his masseuse arrives. The girl begins her work without a word spoken. The girl has been working for this man for many months, but he still makes her nervous. The girl knows he works for the government and she is afraid of him because she has been warned that if she tells anyone anything she might learn in his company she will be executed. In addition, there is something sinister about the man that frightens the girl. The girl is relieved when the phone rings during their session and the man goes into the house.

The phone is a direct line to SMERSH, an ultra secret branch of the MGB and the Russian government. The man, Donovan Grant, is a hired killer for SMERSH. The phone call has alerted him that he must fly to Moscow, but does not tell him why. Grant is annoyed at the lack of information, but obeys his orders because he knows not doing so could result in his death. Grant is taken by car to the airport. While flying, Grant thinks about his past. Grant was born to an Irish woman and a German weight lifter. Grant's mother died in childbirth and his father was never part of the picture, so he was raised by his mother's aunt. As a teenager, Grant began having feelings of intense need that coincided with the full moon that were only satisfied by murder. Grant would wander the countryside and kill innocent woman on their way home from dates, until the murders began to attract the attention of the local officials. Grant then decided to join the Royal Corp where his needs were temporarily satisfied through amateur boxing. However, even this grew out of control and Grant was thrown out of the service for foul fighting.

Grant went immediately to the Soviet Secret Service after his dismissal and volunteered his services as a hired killer. At first the officials thought Grant was just another crazy, wasting their time. However, when Grant was persistent, the official offered him a job in order to prove himself. When Grant successfully completed the mission, he was placed in a training program to prepare him to be a Soviet killer. The program consisted of schooling that Grant nearly failed, and training mission protocols, in which Grant excelled. Grant soon became one of Russia's most prolific and successful killers. Now ten years later, Grant finds himself wondering if he should ask for more money now that he has become so important to the Russian government.



## Chapters 1-3 Analysis

These chapters begin the novel by introducing a prolific Russian killer. This man is not Russian. He is Irish and served a stint in the British military. However, he chose to go to the Russians because he knew their reputation for killing those who got in the way of the government. The hit man, Grant, is a killer by nature, and this line of work is all he wants to do. This makes Grant a very dangerous man and begins the novel on a note of danger for the hero, James Bond. Even though James Bond has not been introduced as of yet, the reader knows this is a James Bond novel and can reasonably conclude that James Bond will eventually be Grant's target for elimination. This begins a tone of suspense as the reader wonders how Bond will escape Grant as the plot development begins.

There is some irony in the fact that Grant was raised in Ireland and served in the British military since Bond is an MI5 agent. The fact that Grant works for the Russians is only secondary to this irony but is essential to the plot because it becomes clear that the Russians hold some ill will against Bond, but what this is not made clear at this point. In fact, the entire Russian plot is not clear at this point, giving the reader an idea of what the next few chapters will include. The only clear thing at this point is that Grant is on his way to a meeting with his bosses in Russia and that these bosses have often sent Grant to kill, so it is reasonable to think this is what Grant will be asked to do now.



# Chapters 4-6

## Chapters 4-6 Summary

SMERSH is an agency within the Russian Government whose sole purpose is to execute those people who conspire to injure the Russian Government. The head of SMERSH is preparing a meeting with the heads of several of the Russian Intelligence Agencies to discuss the role of these intelligence agencies in the policies of the new government leaders. Russia has recently adopted a hard-soft policy in foreign affairs and while they have done many great things since their inception, the government feels that the intelligence community has done little on their part. The idea of this meeting is to devise a plan in which the intelligence community will work together to injure an intelligence agency of one of their enemy countries. General G, the SMERSH leader, those around the table to make suggestions on who they feel should be their target.

It is often not wise of a leader to speak up at one of these meetings as his every word is being recorded and what he says could one day come back to hurt him. That is why the leader of the Foreign Ministry is reluctant to make any statements when asked directly who he feels the target ought to be. However, he does offer several suggestions under duress, including the Italians, the Americans, and the British MI5. General G focuses on what the Foreign Ministry leader says about the MI5 and begins asking for possible targets inside that organization, including the leader. However, it is mutually agreed that the leader of MI5, a man who goes by the simple moniker of M is such an obscure figure that his death would cause little turmoil in England. Other names are suggested and among them is the name of 007 agent, James Bond.

General G listens to the arguments in favor of killing Bond, among them the idea that Bond is a popular spy in England and by killing him and dishonoring his memory, they could cause a great deal of upset in the MI5 ranks. General G likes this idea and agrees that Bond would be a good target, given the proper plan. General G suggests that he contact the heads of government and present Bond as the target. All present agree. General G has a death warrant issued with Bond's name on it and has all the leaders sign it. General G then dismisses the meeting and calls for the head of the Otdyel II to begin planning Bond's death.

## Chapters 4-6 Analysis

The SMERSH department is the department that kills people who do not agree with the Russian government or in some other way causes them trouble. Grant works for this group. The reader knows that Grant is on his way to SMERSH headquarters in Moscow and now the reader is invited to a meeting between the SMERSH leader and the leaders of various intelligence agencies. A clever reader can see that the two things put together more than likely spell a plot against James Bond. The meeting begins and General G, the leader of the SMERSH, begins to chastise the intelligence leaders for



not taking a proactive part in the new policies of the Russian government. The idea is to inspire the other leaders to work with General G to pinpoint some intelligence group among their enemies to target. The group throws out several ideas and finally settle on England as their largest thorn at the moment.

When England is chosen it is only a matter of moments before they begin to toss around names of agents whose death would benefit the Russians. One of the names is M, the leader of the MI5. This is quickly dismissed, however, because M is obscure as far as the public is concerned. However, it is soon suggested that James Bond be targeted, not only because he is a problem for the Russians, but also because he is popular with his fellow agents and his death will cause unhappiness among his co-workers in the MI5. When Bond is chosen, General G wastes little time in forcing his fellow leaders to sign a death warrant and agree to the plot despite reservations among the men in attendance at this meeting. The death warrant is signed and General G dismisses the meeting before calling another leader to his office to begin making plans for Bond's death. The reader now knows that Bond is indeed the target of the Russians, why he is a target, fulfilling the suggestions that were made in the earlier chapters. Now the reader is looking to the next few chapters to learn the details of this plot.





# Chapter 7

## Chapter 7 Summary

Kronsteen is about to win the chess game that will make him Champion of Moscow. Kronsteen's opponent only has three minutes left on his game clock and no moves that will aid him in winning the match. However, before the three minutes is up, a man comes into the room with a message for Kronsteen. The match is placed on hold for a few minutes while Kronsteen reads the message. Kronsteen knows it is his duty to leave the match at that moment and respond to the message since it is from General G, his boss at SMERSH, but he decides to allow the match to end. When the match is ended, Kronsteen humbly accepts his title and leaves the room.

When Kronsteen arrives at General G's office, he is interrogated over his decision not to leave the match. Kronsteen makes up a story about how leaving early would have broken his cover as a chess champion. General G buys the story and tells Kronsteen why he has been called. Kronsteen is to come up with a plan to assassinate James Bond that will ruin Bond's reputation in his own country and aid the Russians. Before Kronsteen is asked for his immediate opinions, General G gives Otdyel II leader, Rosa Klebb, give her outline of the situation and their ideas for the plan Kronsteen is to come up with. Kronsteen does not feel the need to listen to Klebb and instead thinks about all things he knows about her. Kronsteen does not believe Klebb will be head of her department for much longer. Kronsteen knows she has a reputation for being ruthless, that she once killed a man she was having an affair with. Kronsteen also knows that Klebb is something of a sexual pervert. All these things added together make Kronsteen not like Klebb very much and he believes that those in power also do not like her either and this is why she will not be in charge of her department much longer.

Finally General G turns back to Kronsteen and asks what he thinks of the plan. Kronsteen has not heard a thing Klebb has said, but he immediately answers the question competently. Kronsteen believes the best way to get rid of Bond is to lure him to a country where the Russians have control over the radio and other aspects of the media. Kronsteen also suggests that they invite a beautiful woman into the plot to keep Bond distracted while they set him up for elimination.

## Chapter 7 Analysis

Kronsteen is a member of the SMERSH, but he covers this affiliation by working as a chess champion. Kronsteen is in the middle of a championship match when he gets word that General G wants to see him. Instead of ending the match immediately and going to see what General G wants, like he is expected to do, Kronsteen continues the match. Kronsteen could be executed for this disrespect or at least suffer some indignity, but he does it just the same. Kronsteen's actions show his depth of character as well as



his strength as a character. Later, Kronsteen offers a plausible excuse for this behavior that also shows his ability to think on his feet.

Kronsteen arrives at General G's office, and after answering questions about his delay, Kronsteen is told that he is to come up with a plan to have James Bond executed in such a way that Bond is left with a destroyed reputation and the MI5 is irreparably damaged, but the Russians are not obviously involved. Kronsteen has an idea right away, but is forced to listen to Rosa Klebb, the Odtiel II leader first. Kronsteen has little respect for Klebb and spends the entire time she is talking thinking about all the negative things he knows about her, showing the reader the depth of his disrespect. Kronsteen believes Klebb to be a sexual pervert, an important aspect to her character that will come up again later in the plot development. Finally, Kronsteen is given a chance to give his ideas on the plot. Kronsteen talks about luring Bond to a foreign country where the Russians have a great deal of control and about involving a beautiful woman to seduce Bond. Kronsteen's outline of his ideas gives the reader an idea of what the plot to execute him will be.



# Chapters 8-10

## Chapters 8-10 Summary

Tatiana Romanova is a Corporal of State Security living in a women's barracks in Moscow. Tatiana is a beautiful girl who has a strong sense of patriotism, not only working for the government because it is a good job but because she believes in what she is doing. Tatiana has just finished up her dinner when her boss calls her and tells her that she needs to meet with Rosa Klebb in ten minutes at her apartment upstairs. Tatiana tries to ask why, but her boss hangs up quickly, most likely because he is aware of the fact that all calls in and out at the barracks are recorded. Tatiana is suddenly frightened because she believes she might have done something wrong, even though she can think of nothing she has done, and is about to be punished.

Tatiana arrives at Klebb's apartment exactly at the appointed time. Klebb invites her inside and informs her that she has been selected for a special assignment and when the assignment is over she will be promoted to Captain of State Security. Klebb then gets a bottle of champagne to celebrate with. While they drink, Klebb begins to ask Tatiana personal questions having to do with her sexual history. Tatiana becomes upset until Klebb reminds her that she is a subordinate and she is expected to answer any question a superior officer asks her. Klebb changes her tune a minute later, however, and becomes gentler with Tatiana. Klebb tells Tatiana that her assignment will require her to fall in love with a British man in order to entice him to take her to Britain so that she might report to her superiors what living in Britain is like. Klebb then gives Tatiana a picture of Bond and tells her that she should keep it by her bed in order to help her fall in love with him quicker.

Klebb outlines for Tatiana the training she will undergo to prepare for her assignment. Tatiana slowly begins to relax and look forward to this new assignment despite the fact that Klebb makes it clear that she will be expected to have sexual relations with Bond and that she must make him fall in love with her in order for their plan to work properly. Finally Klebb tells Tatiana that their meeting is over and now she wishes to only speak with her for a short time. Klebb excuses herself to change into something more comfortable. When she returns, Klebb is dressed for an intimate encounter. When Klebb asks Tatiana to turn off the lights, Tatiana runs out of the apartment.

Klebb has invited Grant to her office to interview in front of Kronsteen. Klebb makes Grant undress and then she inspects his body from top to bottom before surprising him with a harsh blow to the stomach. Grant takes the punch with little reaction despite the fact that Kronsteen can see that he is hurt. Klebb declares him ready for the mission, gives him a brief outline of the mission and the training he will require, and then sends him away. Kronsteen also leaves with reassurances that Tatiana is perfect for the assignment. When she is alone again, Klebb phones the operations room and informs them that the konspiratsia against Bond is to commence immediately.



## Chapters 8-10 Analysis

Tatiana is introduced in these chapters. Tatiana is a gorgeous woman who is young and innocent, a member of the Russian government, and exactly what Kronsteen wanted when he laid out his plan. As the writer introduces her, the reader can see through his narration into exactly what he has planned for Tatiana. When the phone call comes from Tatiana's boss telling her to visit with Rosa Klebb, Tatiana automatically assumes she has done something wrong, underscoring her innocence and her nativity. Tatiana's innocence makes the reader fall in love with her from the start and to feel sorry for her, knowing what is coming later in the plot development.

Rosa Klebb tells Tatiana that she is to be promoted and then begins to ask her sexual questions. Tatiana knows the rumors about Klebb's sexual perversity as well as Kronsteen did, so she begins to worry that Klebb has sexual plans for her. However, Klebb makes Tatiana feel better about things when she begins to outline the assignment. Tatiana is to seduce Bond in order to get him to take her to Britain so she can report on what life in Britain is like. The reader knows this is not true, but Tatiana believes Klebb because she has little reason not to. Later, Klebb puts on clothing that makes it clear she wants to seduce Tatiana and despite her fears of upsetting a senior officer, Tatiana leaves the apartment.

The next day Klebb has a meeting with Kronsteen and Grant, assuring both herself and Kronsteen that Grant is fit for the assignment by humiliating him, abusing him, and reveling in his lack of reaction. Klebb outlines the assignment for Grant and sends him away for his training and then sends word that the plan is in effect. Everything is in motion now against Bond. The reader now turns anxiously to the next part of the novel, curious how Bond will get out of this situation.



# Chapters 11-13

## Chapters 11-13 Summary

James Bond has been living the easy life lately because he has not had any missions. This makes Bond uneasy and moody because he does not like being idle. Bond sits down to eat his breakfast and his housekeeper tells him about a persistent television salesman. Bond briefly thinks the man might be a spy trying to keep tabs on him, but because of his inactivity of late, he does about it much because he cannot imagine why anyone would be concerned with him at this point. Bond goes into the office a little while later, in a foul mood because he has been assigned to a committee to discuss the pros and cons of hiring intellectuals in the MI5 and no one seems to agree with Bond's position on the subject. However, Bond is rescued from the unpleasant task by a phone call summoning him to M's office.

When Bond arrives in M's office, M begins to question Bond about his relationship with Miss Case, a woman Bond had been rumored to be engaged to. Bond tells M that Miss Case has returned to America to marry a Marine Corp major. M is relieved at this news. M explains to Bond that a Russian woman in Istanbul has approached the leader of their station there and told him she wishes to defect to Britain because she has fallen in love with Bond. The woman worked in Central Index in Moscow and fell in love with Bond when she had to process his files and seen his picture. In exchange for Bond coming to Istanbul to escort her to Britain, the woman has agreed to handover a Spektor machine, a coding machine the Russians use to send messages. M is excited about this prospect and it is the idea of taking custody of the machine that makes Bond agree to the mission.

Bond boards a plane with a suitcase designed by the Q department that has a gun and other instruments of his trade hidden inside. The flight is uneventful except for a short stretch of turbulence. Bond lands in Athens and has several drinks while he waits for his connecting flight to Istanbul. Once in Istanbul, Bond is met by a driver and car that take him directly to his airport. Behind them, Bond is aware of a motor scooter following them.

## Chapters 11-13 Analysis

Bond enters the story, a man of leisure who is not happy with his inactivity. Not only this, but Bond's instincts are not as sharp as they ought to be and he misses a potential spy checking in on him in the guise of a television salesman that has been pestering his housekeeper. Bond's inactivity and weakened instincts warn the reader that Bond may not be up to the conspiracy that the Russians spent the first half of the book putting into motion. Then Bond goes to work and learns about the girl in Istanbul who wants to defect because she is in love with him. Bond is cynical about this girl at first, not believing her story is completely true. The reader knows the story is untrue, knowing



this girl must be Tatiana who was introduced several chapters back. However, when Bond learns that the girl is offering to hand over a Stryker machine, he changes his tune.

Bond is on his way to Istanbul to see Tatiana and to get the Stryker machine. Bond is briefly frightened by turbulence on the plane, suggesting danger in Bond's future. The reader knows about the danger, but perhaps this turbulence is the writer's way of showing the reader how Bond reacts to danger. Bond is cool despite his fear and manages to survive without any outward sign of his fear. When he lands in Istanbul, Bond is met by a chauffeur and a car. The car takes him straight to his hotel. However, they are followed by a motor scooter suggesting that perhaps Bond's arrival is of interest to someone, giving the reader some direction for the plot development of the next few chapters.



# Chapters 14-16

## Chapters 14-16 Summary

Bond woke early the next morning, unhappy with the bug bites all over his body from the infested hotel room. Bond chose the hotel because he does not like big name hotels, but found this particular room to be subpar. However, he does not complain, nor does he arrange to move. Bond goes downstairs after breakfast and meets the chauffeur who will take him to meet the leader of the local MI5 station, Darko Kerim. Bond finds Kerim to be a friendly, open man who is the type of man he feels he could count as a good friend.

Bond tells Kerim about the motor scooter he heard following him last night and Kerim tells him that it was part of a group of men he calls the 'faceless ones' who often follow his car in order to keep tabs on him for the Russians. In fact, Kerim informs Bond, one of them bombed his office the day before and they just got the repairs done in time for Bond's visit. Bond asks why Kerim made his visit so public by having his private car meet him at the airport. Kerim explains that the only way he could have come into the country without the Russians knowing would have been to sneak him in over the Greek frontier, but that would have been pointless because then the girl would not have known he was there and would not have known to contact him.

Bond and Kerim compare notes on the girl. Bond gets Kerim to tell him about the meeting with the girl, Tatiana. Kerim then tells Bond that he has already arranged for passports for both him and Tatiana in the names of David and Caroline Somerset, as well as several plane tickets in the same names. Then Kerim sends Bond back to his hotel, telling him to let him know if anything unusual has happened, and then tells him to meet him for lunch. When Bond gets back to his hotel, he is informed that he has been moved to the honeymoon suite because of his association with Kerim. At first Bond is not happy with the move, but when he finds the room to be much better than his last, he agrees.

Bond meets Kerim for lunch and learns about Kerim's unique childhood in Turkey as the son of a Turkish man with many wives. From there, Kerim takes Bond into a tunnel that goes under the street to a building where the Russians have an office. Kerim has a submarine periscope that looks into the office so that Kerim can spy on the Russians. Kerim wants to put sound on the scope as well, but the Q department cannot figure out how to do it without needing access to the office. Kerim already got access to the office by bribing several city officials to force the Russians out for a supposed gas leak and cannot risk doing it again. Bond looks in the periscope and sees six men having a meeting, three of whom Kerim tells him are new visitors to the office. While Bond is watching, a woman comes into the room.



## Chapters 14-16 Analysis

Darko Kerim is introduced in these chapters. Kerim is a flamboyant man who immediately wins Bond's affections. Kerim is smart, well liked, and influential in Istanbul. Kerim is also a lover who is not shy about his experiences. Kerim tells Bond about the 'faceless ones' a group of men who follow him all over Istanbul in order to report to the Russians. The 'faceless ones' will most likely show up again later in the story, so the reader should take note of this introduction. Kerim also discusses this new case that has brought Bond to Istanbul, telling Bond he thinks that there is more to Tatiana's story than she has told them so far and expresses a need for caution in this case. Bond agrees, but he is not feeling as cautious as Kerim recommends that he be.

Bond's room is changed at the hotel, but Bond does not feel this is important. However, Bond has already admitted in an earlier chapter that his spy instincts have gotten somewhat dull due to inaction. The reader should see that the change in rooms could be an attempt by the Russians to begin their plot against Bond. Later, Bond meets Kerim for lunch and they discuss Kerim's background. Later, Kerim takes Bond down a tunnel under his office that leads to the offices of some Russians who operate in the area, hoping Bond will get a look at Tatiana who also works in the office. While watching, Bond sees three visitors to the office, who are pointed out in the chapter for a reason, so the reader should take note of this as well. Finally, Bond catches sight of a beautiful woman, who is most likely Tatiana, suggesting the reader will learn Bond's reaction in the next chapter.





# Chapters 17-19

## Chapters 17-19 Summary

Bond is overwhelmed by the brief sight of Tatiana he was able to get. Bond thinks she is beautiful and his ego is inflated with the idea that she is in love with him, even though she has yet to meet him. Bond cannot stop thinking about her, and is only able to put her out of his mind when he is picked up to go to dinner with Kerim. Kerim takes Bond to the home of a gypsy friend of his who is supposed to give him information on the bomb that exploded in his office a few days before. They are followed to the house by a motor scooter.

Once there, the gypsy hesitates to allow Bond into his compound because they are scheduled to witness a fight between two women who are in love with the same man. The fight is to be to the death. However, Bond promises that he will not be upset or attempt to stop the fight. The gypsy agrees to allow him to stay. The gypsy then tells Kerim that the man who put the bomb in his office is the leader of the 'faceless ones'. Kerim knows where this man lives and decides he must go deal with him after dinner. After dinner, however, the fight begins. The two women come out of the house already snapping at each other and begin to fight fiercely. During the fight, however, the fight is interrupted by an explosion.

The 'faceless ones' invade the gypsy compound and begin firing mercilessly. A fight breaks out and five gypsies are killed. Kerim is nearly killed but Bond comes to his rescue and shoots his attacker. Finally the 'faceless ones' run off. Bond and Kerim apologize to the gypsies and run off to get their own revenge. Kerim takes Bond to the home of the 'faceless ones' leader and tells Bond that he intends to kill the man in cold blood, so if he is uncomfortable with that he should stay in the car. Bond decides to go with Kerim. Bond watches as Kerim shoots the man while he escapes from a hidden door in a billboard.

## Chapters 17-19 Analysis

Bond saw Tatiana and now he cannot get her off his mind. Tatiana is a beautiful woman and this ingrains her face and her crush on him in his mind. Part of this is ego, but part of it might be an infatuation for a beautiful woman. Bond's reaction to Tatiana touches on the theme of love and romance, opening the door to the idea that Bond might be falling under the spell Tatiana has been hired to create for him. Later, Bond and Kerim go to dinner at the home of gypsy Kerim is friendly with. Here they learn that the 'faceless ones' leader is the man who tried to kill Kerim in his office the day before Bond arrived.

Bond and Kerim sit down to dinner with the gypsies and afterward are treated to an after dinner fight between two beautiful women. These women are in love with the same



man, so according to gypsy rules, they have to fight to the death and the winner will get the man. Bond watches this fight, feeling sorry for both women. However the fight is interrupted by the 'faceless ones' who have apparently come to kill Kerim. Several gypsies die in the fight. Kerim decides to go after the leader of this group, and takes Bond with him who witnesses the cold-blooded killing of this man. Bond has no problem with what Kerim has done, excusing it by saying that the other man tried to kill Kerim twice, so Kerim had the right to kill him, showing the reader Bond's moral compass. This also touches on the theme of conspiracies, as the plot against Kerim is a conspiracy on the part of the Russians.



# Chapters 20-22

## Chapters 20-22 Summary

Bond returns to his hotel and has a bath, then stands at his open window naked, enjoying the cool night. A voice behind him causes Bond to turn and he finds Tatiana in his bed, naked. They speak for a few minutes and Bond finds Tatiana to be innocent and seductive. Bond asks about the machine, but Tatiana is offended by Bond's turn to business right away. Bond soothes her, and Tatiana assures him that she will steal the machine in the morning and they can leave the following evening. Bond tells her that he has arranged plane tickets and passports. Tatiana refuses to take a plane, telling Bond she thinks the Orient Express will be safer. Bond agrees with some hesitation. They then spend the night in bed together, while a group of Russians watch from the mirror above the bed.

Bond waits for Tatiana outside the Orient Express until the train begins to leave, thinking she has decided not to show up. However, Tatiana is already on the train and Bond climbs aboard at the last minute. Kerim is also on board, acting as a bodyguard of sorts. Kerim has seen the three Russians on board the train and has come up with a plan to get rid of them. Kerim has stolen one man's ticket and intends to steal another man's passport in order to have them kicked off the train when they reach the border of Turkey. Bond stays awake on guard the entire night concerned about his and Tatiana's safety. When they reach the border, Bond watches as the officials check for tickets and passports. When one man realizes that his passport has disappeared, he attempts to bribe the officials. The two men are promptly arrested.

## Chapters 20-22 Analysis

Bond finds Tatiana in his bed and they talk about the code machine before they fall into bed together. Bond's focus on the machine proves to the reader that he is not completely lost to Tatiana's charms, but still cares about his country's desire to get this machine. However, Bond is not so focused on patriotism to keep her out of Tatiana's arms. The men behind them in the mirror taking pictures of their romance prove to the reader that there is still a plot going on and the reader should take note since these pictures will most likely come back to haunt Bond at some point.

Kerim is on the train. Kerim sees the three Russians who were in the office when he took Bond to the tunnel to see Tatiana on board the same train. Tatiana assures them that these men are headed to Germany, but Kerim does not trust her and decides to find a way to get the men off the train. Kerim steals one's ticket and the other's passport, getting two of the men arrested. However, this leaves one man on board, a fact the reader should note and look to this man appearing again in a future chapter.



# Chapters 23-24

## Chapters 23-24 Summary

The next morning, Bond feels more relaxed since the two Russians are gone. Bond and Tatiana go to have lunch with Kerim. Kerim does not trust Tatiana and Tatiana feels as though he does not like her. However, at lunch Kerim warms up to her. Bond is tired, so Tatiana makes an excuse to take him back to the room so he can nap. Afterward, they make love. When Bond meets Kerim out in the corridor a while later, Kerim tries to talk Bond into leaving the train. Kerim feels as though there is a plot against Bond and that he may be in danger. However, Bond refuses to leave.

Bond spends the night again standing guard over Tatiana. In the morning, Bond is informed that something bad has happened. Bond goes to Kerim's stateroom and finds him dead. Kerim has been stabbed by the third Russian and in his death throes he managed to kill the Russian. They are tangled together on the floor. Bond is upset over this death and he returns to his own stateroom to interrogate Tatiana. Tatiana is unhappy with his reaction, but she has little information to give him. Soon an agent of Kerim's comes on the train for at a preappointed time to take them off the train during a long wait. The man turns out to be Kerim's son. Bond informs him about what has happened. The man takes Bond and Tatiana to his apartment, makes a few calls, and leaves them alone. Bond uses the phone to call M, who suggests he send another agent to back Bond up, but Bond refuses. Then Bond makes amends with Tatiana and they return to the train. Once on the train, Bond sees a man board that seems to be interested in Bond.

## Chapters 23-24 Analysis

Bond feels safe which should tip the reader off that something bad is about to happen. Bond and Tatiana have become very close and they make love in the stateroom, again illustrating the theme of love and romance. Then Bond tells Kerim that he is in love with Tatiana in an attempt to excuse why he trusts her. Kerim wants Bond to leave the train, but Bond does not want to because he wants to spend the next few days with Tatiana. This decision seems to be a bad one, in Kerim's eyes anyway, but he does not argue. Then Kerim is found dead. The Russian left behind the night before comes to kill Kerim, fulfilling a suspicion the reader most likely had from the previous chapters.

Bond and Tatiana are taken to the home of one of Kerim's sons while waiting out a long layover on the train. The boy makes many phone calls, which is probably informing his family members of the death, perhaps setting into motion something the reader should be on the watch for in the following chapters. Then Bond calls M, discussing the possibility of having reinforcements sent to the train. However, Bond refuses. Bond's refusal proves that he still does not feel as though there is any danger against him or

Tatiana. The reader knows this is not true, so the reader should look to the next few chapters for the danger that they know is coming.



# Chapters 25-28

## Chapters 25-28 Summary

Bond realizes the man who took interest in him while boarding the train must be reinforcements that M decided to send despite Bond's refusal of help. To prove this fact, the man joins Bond in the corridor and uses the pass phrases that all British agents use to recognize one another. Bond welcomes the man on the train even though he gets the feeling the man is not mentally competent. The man is clumsy and awkward when Bond introduces him to Tatiana. While they are in the stateroom, the man shows Bond a headline from the paper that shows that an explosion took out the Russian offices in Istanbul, reminding Bond of the bomb that Kerim showed him in the rat tunnel.

The man, Nash, tells Bond that he has recognized another Russian operative in the stateroom next to Bond and Tatiana's. Bond tells Nash he should stay with him and Tatiana that night and help stand guard. Nash agrees. Over dinner, Nash spills Tatiana's drink and makes a big show of refilling it. Later, Tatiana becomes so tired that she begins to fall asleep at the table. Nash takes her back to the stateroom. Bond joins them there and agrees that Nash should take first watch and Bond the second. Bond goes to sleep. Bond is awoken in the night and finds that Nash has changed. Nash tells Bond that he is the chief executioner for SMERSH and he has been sent to kill Bond and Tatiana. The plot is for it to look as though Bond killed Tatiana and then himself over a threat Tatiana made to go public with the fact that he used her to get the code machine.

Nash, or Grant, moves to shoot Bond in the chest. However, Bond has moved his cigarette case in the way and pretends to be dead. When given the opportunity, Bond stabs Grant with the knife Q hid in his attache case. With Grant on the ground, the two men struggle and then Bond gets the book gun that Grant has used against Bond and kills him with it. Later, Bond cleans up the mess of Grant's blood, packs his things, and moves Tatiana out of the stateroom, telling the conductor that she was ill and they were leaving the train early.

While explaining the plot against him, Grant had told Bond that he had a meeting with Klebb the following night at a hotel. Bond decides to keep the meeting and get Klebb. When Bond enters the hotel room where the meeting is to take place, there is an old woman who denies knowing either Bond or Grant. However, Bond knows she is Klebb. They begin to fight and Klebb tries to scratch Bond with knitting needles that have poison on their tip. However, Bond gets the better of her and traps her against the wall. Bond allows inside the room his men who will take Klebb to London. However, Klebb gets the better of Bond by kicking him with a hidden knife in her boot that has poison on it.



## Chapters 25-28 Analysis

Bond thinks the man on board the train is a fellow British agent because he knows the codes, but he is put off by a look in the man's eye that makes him think he is not mentally competent. However, Bond decides to keep the man close because of the possibility of another assassination attempt by the Russians. Again Bond proves that his spy skills are a little rusty. The man goes to dinner with them and suddenly Tatiana becomes very tired as though she has drunk too much. Bond does not seem suspicious of this, either. However, it later turns out that the woman has been drugged.

Bond goes back to his room to settle in for the night with the man guarding over him. Bond's decision to let a man he does not know watch over him is suspicious, but the reader knows the plot and knows who this man is, so perhaps the suspiciousness comes from this knowledge. The man proves to be Grant and he is there to kill Bond. Finally, Bond learns about the plot against him and the reader learns the details which seem to be quite impressive. The details of this plot touch on the theme of conspiracies, exposing the conspiracy against Bond.

Bond manages to survive Grant's attack on him, killing Grant and taking Tatiana off the train. However, the story is not over because Bond wants Klebb too. Bond goes to Klebb and wins a fight against her, preparing her to go to London. However, Klebb has a secret. Klebb kicks Bond in the leg with a poison knife on her boot without anyone's knowledge. Now Bond is passed out on the floor and that is how the book ends, suggesting another novel for devoted fans.



# Characters

## James Bond

James Bond is a MI5 spy. James Bond is a suave, sophisticated man who is cool under pressure and always is successful at anything his bosses have him do. When Bond is introduced in this novel, he is bored and his spy instincts have gotten a little rusty. Bond has been inactive for a long period and is not happy with his current situation. When M, his boss, comes to him and tells him about a Russian woman who wants to defect to England due to a crush she has developed on Bond, Bond takes the excuse to go to Istanbul to shake things up a little. Bond does not really believe this woman fell in love with him due to his pictures and reputation in her country, but the idea that she is willing to give him a code machine in exchange for coming to get her personally, Bond is willing to try.

Bond goes to Istanbul and meets the leader of the substation there. Bond really likes this man and counts him among his friends from the first meeting. Bond is the type of man who does not make friends easily but is completely loyal to them when he does, and this is how he feels about this man. Bond tours the city with his new friend and becomes embroiled in a plot against some gangsters with this man while he waits for Tatiana to contact him. When Tatiana finally does contact him, Bond gets his friend to help him, only to lure him unknowingly to his death. Bond then faces his own possible death only to get the better of his assassin at the last minute and escape.

## M

M is the leader of the British MI5 cell that Bond works for. M is the only name anyone knows him by, even Bond. Bond and M appear to be friendly. Bond answers intimate questions that M asks him without protest, knowing that M would not ask these questions if he did not have a good reason. Bond trusts M completely and it seems M feels the same about Bond because when Tatiana contacts Bond, M gives him complete discretion on his actions. When the Russians first thought to hurt the British Secret Service in some way, they thought about attacking M. However, M is so obscure and unknown in the eye of the public, they decided it would not do any good in their cause to kill M. That is why they decided to go after Bond, because Bond was more popular with his co-workers and would be missed quicker.

## Tatiana Romanova

Tatiana Romanova is a beautiful young woman who is a Corporal in the MGB. Tatiana is naive and innocent, afraid she will get in trouble for stealing a spoon from a local restaurant when she is told she is to speak with the leader of SMERSH. This innocence makes SMERSH interested in Tatiana. They want to use Tatiana as a lure to get Bond out of England and into a country where they can control the media. Tatiana is put





through interviews and training before she is sent to Istanbul with strict instructions on how to proceed. Once in Istanbul, Tatiana contacts the leader of the British substation and gives him her story about the crush on Bond.

When Bond comes to Istanbul, Tatiana moves into his hotel without his knowledge and then bides her time before approaching him. When she does approach him, Tatiana waits for Bond in his room, naked in his bed. By this time, Bond has become infatuated with Tatiana, so he has no problem not only crawling into bed with her, but agreeing to her crazy plan of taking the Orient Express to London. On the train, Bond and Tatiana grow even closer, until the night the Russian plot is revealed and Bond kills his would-be assassin. Bond and Tatiana survive this plot, but the fate of their romance is left in question.

## **Darko Kerim**

Darko Kerim is the leader of the Istanbul substation and is the man whom Bond immediately becomes friendly with upon his arrival in Istanbul. Kerim is the son of a Turkish man and one of his many wives. Kerim became an agent for England when his father enlisted his help in spying for a friend of his. Now Kerim runs the substation with efficiency, using his own children to populate the office and the cover business. Kerim helps Bond in this case by occupying his time while he waits for Tatiana to contact him. Kerim shows Bond the town and takes him to dinner with a gypsy who is a spy for Kerim, helping him learn the plots against him by the Russians. It is during this evening that Bond accompanies Kerim to the home of his enemy and watches him kill this man.

After Tatiana contacts Bond, M puts Bond in charge of the mission. Bond asks Kerim to accompany him and Tatiana on the Orient Express in case there is trouble. Kerim helps Bond immediately by recognizing the three Russians who have followed them on board and arranging to have two of them thrown off the train. Kerim then warns Bond that there is something not right about Tatiana and this whole situation and suggests that he leave the train and fly the rest of the way back to London. Bond fails to take Kerim's advice and the next morning, Kerim is dead. Kerim is killed by one of the three Russians, killing the Russian before he dies.

## **Donovan Grant**

Donovan Grant is the illegitimate child of an Irish woman and a German weight lifter. Grant is raised in Ireland by the aunt of his mother after her death and has a normal childhood until he is sixteen. At sixteen, Grant begins to have these compulsions in which he must murder to feel better. These fits occur at the same time as the full moon. Grant kills many people in the country around his hometown until the law begins to focus on him. Grant decides he must leave town and joins the British military. While with the military, Grant becomes a boxer. However, Grant is thrown out of the military for fighting dirty. Grant then goes to the Russians and offers his skills as a killer.



The Russians think Grant is crazy and plan on killing him until a job comes up in which he might be an asset. Grant is given an assignment and when it goes well, he is given a position within SMERSH. The first year, Grant is put through schooling. Grant does not do well in the academics but excels at the technical side. When schooling is over, Grant quickly proves himself to the SMERSH leaders. Ten years later, Grant is the chief executioner of SMERSH. That is why Grant is chosen to kill Bond, since it is an important case and SMERSH needs it done well. However, Grant fails when Bond gets the better of him and kills him instead.

## Rosa Klebb

Rosa Klebb is one of the leaders within SMERSH. Klebb is rumored to have been promoted in the MGB because she killed a man she was having an affair with who was a thorn in the government's side. Klebb is also reported to have a sexual perversion. Where Grant is sexless, Klebb likes to have sex with anyone, man or woman. Klebb also supposedly uses sex as a tool and does not have emotional attachments to the people she sleeps with. Klebb appears to reinforce these rumors during her meeting with Tatiana when she attempts to seduce the young woman. Klebb also forces Grant to undress during a meeting for no obvious reason.

Klebb is supposed to meet with Grant after Bond is dead. When Bond learns about this meeting, he decides to keep the appointment for Grant. Bond arrives at the hotel room and finds an old woman there. However, based on a few clues, Bond realizes this old woman is Klebb in disguise. Bond and Klebb begin to fight after Klebb attempts to shoot Bond with a disguised phone. Bond gets Klebb trapped against the wall and invites his people inside to take her to London. However, Klebb gets the last word by kicking Bond in the leg with a poisoned knife hidden in her boot.

## General G

General G is the leader of SMERSH. General G runs the meeting that is designed to force the intelligence leaders of Russia to decide which intelligence agency in an enemy country to attack. General G's job is assigned to him directly from the government and he takes this confidence from his leaders to treat the other leaders with less respect than they most likely warrant. General G bullies these leaders into picking a country and a person to attack, finally settling on Bond. General G then arranges for the death warrant and organizes a meeting between Klebb and Kronsteen to come up with a plan in order to carry out the killing. General G is also the one who has chosen Grant as the executioner. This ends General G's part in the plot.

## Kronsteen

Kronsteen is a chess master who is also an official within SMERSH whose role is to plan the executions of enemies of the state. Kronsteen is in the middle of a chess match when he receives word he is needed by General G. Instead of going immediately to



General G's office, Kronsteen waits until the match is over, which sets him up for punishment. However, Kronsteen is a clever man who comes up with a good excuse as to why he did not come. Not only that, but Kronsteen came up with a brilliant plan to kill Bond and to ruin his reputation in order to damage the MI5.

## The Masseuse

The masseuse appears in the novel only briefly, but her role is important to the novel because she introduces a great fear of Grant. The masseuse's feelings toward Grant, his clear attraction and his fine body, but his lack of sexual feeling toward her and his refusal to speak to her, creep her out. The masseuse knows that Grant works for the government and that his work must be important because of the warnings she was given when she came to work for him and this makes her even more afraid of him. The masseuse introduces Grant in ways that he could not have been introduced through internal dialogue and with a feeling that is important to the novel. The reader needs to know that they should fear Grant and this masseuse plays this role perfectly.

## The Three Russians

Bond sees three Russians at a meeting in the Russian offices at Istanbul when Kerim takes him into the tunnel to get a look at Tatiana. These three men show up again when Bond and Kerim are on the Orient Express with Tatiana. Tatiana assures them that these men are going to Berlin, but Kerim does not believe in coincidences and decides these men must be part of some plot against Bond, so he arranges to have them kicked off the train. Kerim only succeeds in having two of them thrown off the train. This makes Bond feel better, but he should have been more cautious. The next morning, Kerim is found in a death grip with this last Russian. The Russian stabbed Kerim in the throat and Kerim managed to stab the Russian before he died.



# Objects/Places

## Q Department

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

## Bond's Attachy Case

Bond has an attachy case that is designed by the Q department. This attachy case has his gun hidden inside along with several knives and money. Bond uses one of these knives to save himself in a fight with Grant.

## T Station

The T station is a station for the British Secret Service in Istanbul. Darko Kerim is head of this station.

## Women's Barracks

Tatiana lives in the women's barracks in Moscow that belong to the MGB. Rosa Klebb also lives here and it is in her apartment where Tatiana meets her the day she learns of her assignment.

## Chess Match

Kronsteen pretends to be a chess master as his cover to keep his association with the MGB unknown. Kronsteen is in the middle of a chess match when he is called to plan Bond's death.

## Spektor Machine

The Spektor machine is a Russian coding machine. Tatiana promises to give one to the English government if Bond will help her defect to England.

## SMERSH

SMERSH is the assassination branch of the MGB with whom Grant works as head executioner. It is SMERSH who plans and attempts to execute Bond's death.



## The Orient Express

The Orient Express is a train that travels from Istanbul to Paris. It is on this train that Bond and Tatiana attempt to return to England.

## Berretta

Bond's gun of choice is a berretta.

## Book Gun

Grant has a book, *War and Peace*, that has a battery-operated gun hidden in its spine. It is this gun Grant attempts to kill Bond with and it is also this gun that Bond successfully kills Grant with.

## Rat Tunnel

Kerim finds a tunnel under the streets of Istanbul that allows him to spy on the Russians who have an office nearby.

## Submarine Periscope

Kerim has a periscope hidden in the tunnel with which he can view the Russians in their office. Kerim would like to have sound put on the scope but Q cannot figure out how to do it.

## Tunnel Bomb

There is a bomb in the tunnel under the Russian offices that is connected to Kerim's office so he can set it off any time he sees fit. This bomb is set off on word of Kerim's death.



# Themes

## Espionage

The main characters in this novel are all spies for different countries. Tatiana and Grant, as well as Klebb, work for Russia. Bond and Kerim work for Britain along with M. These characters spend their lives working in foreign countries and attempting to learn things about the other countries that can help their own governments. These spies are allowed to do whatever they need to do to protect themselves and to keep enemies from hurting their government. This includes killing people. In fact, Grant is a professional killer whose sole job is to kill those people who threaten to harm his country. It is this idea that sends Grant after Bond and provides a large portion of the plot for this novel.

Espionage is a dangerous and romantic profession that often provides entertaining plots for novels such as this. Bond is one of the most popular, a character who has been revived in many novels and many movies, played by many of Hollywood's leading men. It is this danger and romance that also keeps this plot going. This novel is perhaps one of the most romantic of the Bond series. Bond falls in love in most of his stories. However, the bulk of the plot of this novel involves Bond falling in love with Tatiana, a woman who has been sent by her government to make Bond fall in love with her in order to get him in a position in which he is vulnerable enough to be murdered by Grant. Tatiana does her job so well that she falls in love with Bond herself, unaware of the end game her country is planning for her new lover. That is what makes espionage an important theme to this novel.

## Love and Romance

Spies live a dangerous life and do not often have time to date like other people. Bond is one of these men. Most of the women in his life are women he meets in the process of saving his country from some evil. In this novel, Bond is told that a Russian woman has fallen in love with the idea of him by reading through the file her country keeps on him. Though skeptical of this idea, Bond goes to meet this woman in order to take from her a machine she has promised to give him. However, the idea that this woman is in love with him has Bond fascinated and has inflated his ego enough to make him interested in her. It also helps that the young woman in question is very beautiful.

Bond falls in love with the idea of Tatiana just as she supposedly fell in love with the idea of him. When Tatiana finally approaches Bond, he is ready to explore whatever emotions might exist between them. Bond immediately joins Tatiana in his bed and assures her that his feelings are true. In this way, the novel contains a larger amount of romance than the other Bond stories up to this point. There is also romance. When Bond tells Tatiana that he wants to get her out of Istanbul as quickly as possible, she insists they take the Orient Express to London. Although Bond is not excited with the idea, as he should not be since this is part of the Russians plan to kill him, Bond agrees



so that he can spend the extra days, and nights, with Tatiana. It is Bond's desire to be with his new ladylove that makes him vulnerable and therefore makes love and romance an important theme to this novel.

## Conspiracies

It is the nature of spies to live in a world of conspiracies. There are several conspiracies in work in this novel. The first is the Russians plan to kill Bond in order to serve a blow to the British Secret Service. This plan includes luring Bond out of England to a country the Russians can control the media inside of and killing him in a scenario that will embarrass his country. This plan works well, causing Bond to fall in love with their spy and leaving him vulnerable to their assassin. However, the Russians do not count on Bond's experience and luck.

Another conspiracy in the novel is Kerim's plan to execute the Russians in his Istanbul should anything ever happen to him. Kerim is daily followed by agents of the Russians and he feels that someday his life might be in danger. In order to get revenge for some action on the Russians part, he has planted a bomb and given instructions that this bomb is to be exploded should something happen to him. This does happen shortly after Kerim is killed on the Orient Express not by the agents who have caused him such heartache for so long, but by an agent on the train in order to keep an eye on Bond. This is why conspiracies are an important theme to this novel.

# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of this novel is third person omniscient. The author spends a great deal of his time inside the heads of his narrating characters, building his story with as much internal dialogue as external dialogue and exposition. The narrating characters switch frequently, sometimes as often as every few paragraphs within a single chapter. The narrating character is often the main character in a scene, but occasionally the narrating character is an unimportant character who offers little to the plot but observations. The identity of the character is confusing to the reader from time to time when a modern reader might expect the narrator to go on to be important to the plot, only to find that particular character never appears in the novel again. This might add some confusion to the story for the reader.

The point of view itself does not fluctuate the way the narrating character tends to do. The point of view remains constant and clear, keeping the story on track despite the shifting of narrating character. The internal dialogue that makes up the bulk of the narration is often repetitive and unnecessarily detailed, but it gives the reader deep insight into the main characters, such as Bond. If not for the internal dialogue, there are a great many things about Bond the reader would not be aware of, such as the fear he feels when his airplane moves through turbulence. Bond shows little fear on the outside, but inside he is deeply afraid and the reader can see this thanks to the internal dialogue in which he expresses this fear clearly. It is little things like this that make the point of view work for the reader and makes the story compelling and interesting.

## Setting

The novel begins in a resort town of Russia where roses are grown, giving the impression of beauty and peace. However, living in the middle of this town is a killer who has spent his entire life perfecting his macabre talents. The setting, therefore, is used to contrast this man who will prove to be a pivotal character in the story. The novel then moves to Moscow, a cold and stark place, where a murder is being planned. The meeting room in which this murder is discussed is sparse and richly but starkly decorated, complimenting not only the setting of Moscow, but also the subject in which the people in attendance are discussing.

When Bond enters the novel, he is in London, darkly bored from inactivity. London is not described in detail, but the reader gets the impression of a place of leisure and luxury. This setting is in contrast to the next, Istanbul. Istanbul is a dark, dirty place full of a people with a different sort of morals and philosophy on life. Bond embraces this place and its people despite the dirt that clearly offends his English sensibilities. It is here that Bond meets the most beautiful woman he has known, contrasting with the setting, and falls in love. They then board the Orient Express, a train that is known for its mystery





and its romance, and it is here that Bond nearly meets his death. The settings in this novel seem out to contrast with every aspect of the plot, making the setting almost another character in the narration.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is precise English. The English tends to be on the formal side, full of proper grammar and lacking the contractions that often make dialogue easier for a reader to comprehend. This formalness gives a spy novel a sense of propriety that it might be lacking otherwise, but does make it a bit more difficult to read. The novel also contains many foreign phrases, many in Russian as well as French, Italian, and Arabic. These foreign phrases are used in connection with characters and locations where these languages are spoken, lending a sense of authenticity to the plot.

The language in this novel works because it creates a work that is easy to read, but also lends it a sense of authenticity that fits the plot and intelligence, complimenting the main characters. The author was an Englishman, like his main character, and his own language and personality come through in the type of language he chose to use in his novel. Bond is reportedly much like his author and creator, so the reader gets a true feeling of what Bond and his writer must have been like through the choice of language and the precise use of language within this novel.

## Structure

The book is divided into two parts and twenty-eight chapters. Each chapter is named for a subject or event that will take place within the chapter, giving the reader a brief clue as to the direction of the plot. The first part of the novel is populated by the Russians and it covers their plot to kill Bond. The second half is populated by Bond and his fellow spies, following the execution of the plan that was conceived in the first half of the book. This division allows the reader to understand the motivations behind the plot to kill Bond and to get to know Bond in order to root for his survival.

The novel only has one main plot, but the subplot is almost as compelling as the death warrant against Bond. The subplot has a lot to do with the romance between Bond and Tatiana. Tatiana is a spy, but she is also an innocent who believes her job to seduce Bond is a benefit to her country as a whole and will not harm Bond in any way. This is naive and untrue, but Tatiana has not thought to question her country's motivations. Bond also falls in love with Tatiana despite being a seasoned enough spy to realize that she is most likely a part of some plot to harm him or his country. Bond does not believe that Tatiana herself is out to hurt him and in this he is correct. However, it is in Bond's blind trust of Tatiana that he finds himself nearly destroyed by SMERSH's top executioner.



## Quotes

"The naked man who lay splayed out on his face beside the swimming pool might have been dead." Part One, The Plan, Chapter 1, Roseland, pg. 1

"SMERSH is the official murder organization of the Soviet government. It operates both at home and abroad and, in 1955, it employed a total of 40,000 men and women. SMERSH is a contraction of 'Smiert spionam', which means 'Death to Spies'. It is a name used only among its staff and among Soviet officials. No sane member of the public would dream of allowing the word to pass his lips."

Part One, The Plan, Chapter 4, The Moguls of Death, pg. 29

"Kronsteen sat motionless and erect, as malevolently inscrutable as a parrot. His elbows were on the table and his big head rested on clenched fists that pressed into his cheeks, squashing the pursed lips into a pout of hauteur and disdain."

Part One, The Plan, Chapter 7, The Wizard of Ice, pg. 59

"It was said that Rosa Klebb would let no torturing take place without her. There was a blood-spattered smock in her office, and a low camp-stool, and they said that when she was seen scurrying through the basement passages dressed in the smock and with the stool in her hand, the word would go round, and even the workers in SMERSH would hush their words and bend low over their papers—perhaps even cross their fingers in their pockets—until she was reported back in her room."

Part One, The Plan, Chapter 8, The Beautiful Lure, pg. 78

"People in Russia soak themselves in scent, whether they have had a bath or not, but mostly when they have not, and healthy, clean girls like Tatiana always walk home from the office, unless the rain or the snow is too bad, so as to avoid the stench in the trains and the Metro." Part One, The Plan, Chapter 9, A Labour of Love, pg. 80

"She banged the door shut behind her and ran wildly off down the corridor with her hand over her ears against the pursuing scream that never came."

Part One, The Plan, Chapter 9, A Labour of Love, pg. 92

"The great red-brown body with its golden hair lit up the drab room. Grant stood relaxed, his hands held loosely at his sides and one knee bent slightly forward, as if he were posing for an art class." Part One, The Plan, Chapter 10, The Fuse Burns, pg. 93

"The blubbery arms of the soft life had Bond round the neck and they were slowly strangling him. He was a man of war and when, for a long period, there was no war, his spirit went into a decline." Part Two, The Execution, Chapter 11, The Soft Life, pg. 101



"In the centre of Bond was a hurricane-room, the kind of citadel found in old-fashioned houses in the tropics. These rooms are small, strongly built cells in the heart of the house, in the middle of the ground floor and sometimes dug down into its foundations. To this cell the owner and his family retire if the storm threatens to destroy the house, and they stay there until the danger is past. Bond went to his hurricane-room only when the situation was beyond his control and no other possible action could be taken. Now he retired to this citadel, closed his mind to the hell of noise and violent movement, and focused on a single stitch in the back of the seat in front of him..."

Part Two, The Execution, Chapter 13, 'B.E.A. Takes You There...' pg. 125

"There is only one way of telling if a woman really loves you, and even that way can only be read by an expert." Part Two, The Execution, Chapter 14, Darko Kerim, pg. 139

"The bullet, homing on Bond's heart, flashed over its two quiet yards.

Bond pitched forward on to the floor and lay sprawled under the funeral violet light."

Part Two, The Execution, Chapter 26, The Killing Bottle, pg. 265

"Now Bond felt the heat under his fingers. The hands on his legs were going limp. The glistening face was drawing back. A noise came from the throat, a terrible gurgling noise. Then, with a slither and a crack, the body fell forward to the floor and the head crashed back against the woodwork." Part Two, The Execution, Chapter 27, Ten Pints of Blood, pg. 269



## Topics for Discussion

Who is Grant and why is he the first character introduced in the novel? What is it about Grant's role that he rates such an introduction? Is Grant insane? How does he control his murderous instincts? How is his past pertinent to the plot?

Why does SMERSH want to hurt the intelligence of another country? Why does the administration feel that the intelligence agencies need to be a part of the choosing of the country that is targeted? Why do they choose England? Why do they choose Bond over M? Would not M be a better target?

What is the significance of Kronsteen's decision to remain at his chess match until it is completed? Why does General G question his decision? Why does Kronsteen make up such an excuse when the truth most likely lies closer to his desire to be a winner? Why does General G not punish him for this choice?

Why does Rosa Klebb attempt to seduce Tatiana? Is this part of her attempt to see if Tatiana is worthy of the role chosen for her, or is this a personal act? Why does Klebb force Grant to undress and then hits him? What is the significance of this act? Is it part of Klebb's perversity or is it professional in nature?

Why does Bond not at first realize that the Russians might be interested in his whereabouts? Has Bond become complacent in his inactivity? How will this complacency affect his life? Why does Bond agree to go to Istanbul and meet Tatiana? Does he really believe she is in love with him?

What is the significance of the terrorists in Istanbul who attack Kerim? Why does Kerim kill their leader? How does this affect the overall plot? How does the gypsy know about the moon killer who turns out to be Grant? Is the gypsy part of the good guys or the bad?

Why does Bond go to meet Klebb? What helps him figure out that the old woman is in fact Klebb? How does Bond know that the knitting needles are not as innocent as they look? Why does Bond not realize he has been poisoned? Why do you suppose the writer leaves the novel the way he does? Will Bond die?