

Goldfinger Study Guide

Goldfinger by Ian Fleming

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Plot Summary

"Goldfinger" is a classic spy thriller featuring the dashing British gentleman spy James Bond, Agent 007. Bond works for the British Secret Service and is one of the elite "00" operatives with a "license to kill." After breaking up a heroin smuggling ring, Bond crosses paths in Miami with a British millionaire, Auric Goldfinger, who is obsessed with gold and has hoarded away enormous quantities of it. Under cover, Bond eventually gets closer to Goldfinger and becomes part of his outrageous scheme to rob Fort Knox of its gold. Bond also learns the Goldfinger is a major financier of SMERSH, the Soviet secret spy ring. With the help of the US military, Bond foils Goldfinger's plan, but he escapes. Later, Goldfinger kidnaps Bond and steals an airplane, intending to turn Bond over to SMERSH agents. Bond daringly forces the plane down over Canada, killing Goldfinger and most of his henchmen while surviving himself.

On his way back to England after breaking up a drug smuggling operation, James Bond becomes stranded in Miami when his flight is canceled. He becomes the guest of a wealthy American named Du Pont, who asks his help to catch a man who has been cheating him at cards. Bond agrees, and exposes the card cheat, who turns out to be Auric Goldfinger. Bond threatens to expose Goldfinger unless he pays back Du Pont all he has lost on the crooked games, and then leaves Miami with Goldfinger's beautiful secretary, Jill Masterton. He tries to persuade Masterton to leave Goldfinger, but she returns to him after she and Bond share a long, romantic train ride to New York. Bond returns to England.

Bond is called in to meet with the head of the Secret Service, a man called only "M." M tells Bond he is to report to the Bank of England to learn about a possible gold smuggling operation led by Goldfinger. Bond learns that Goldfinger is one of the richest men in the world, and is obsessed with gold, which he hoards. He finances his operation, it is believed by the Bank of England, by smuggling it into India where a high price can be had for it. Goldfinger has metallurgy laboratories in England and Switzerland, but he has no criminal record, and it is not clear how he is getting the gold out of England. He is also suspected to be backing the soviet spy ring known as SMERSH, since bars of his gold have been found on captured SMERSH agents. Bond is assigned to find out more.

Bond knows from his conversation with Goldfinger in Miami that he is a regular at St. Mark's golf course, where, coincidentally, Bond once played frequently as a young man. Bond arranges an "accidental" meeting with Goldfinger at the course and the men agree to play a round of golf wagering the \$10,000 that Bond forced Goldfinger to give Du Pont to cover Bond's fee in Miami. During the course of the match, Bond again catches Goldfinger cheating and exposes him by cheating a little himself. Goldfinger is infuriated, but he pays up and invites Bond to dinner at his mansion that evening.

Bond accepts the invitation, hoping to prompt Goldfinger into somehow taking him into his smuggling scheme. Goldfinger tries to find out more about Bond, and Bond gives him his cover story that he works for a company called Universal Export. Bond hints that



he has been involved in drug smuggling himself, trying to entice Goldfinger to make him an offer. Goldfinger does not take the bait. He tells Bond he will be taking an air ferry to Europe the following day.

Bond arranges to plant a homing device on Goldfinger's Rolls Royce before he has it flown to France the following day. He chases Goldfinger from a distance through France toward Switzerland. Along the way, crosses paths with Tilly Soames, a beautiful young woman in a silver sports car. Afraid she might be an enemy agent, Bond disables her car by backing into it. She tells him she is a golfer on her way to Geneva to play in a tournament. Bond offers her a ride, which she accepts.

Soames' real name turns out to be Tilly Masterton, the sister of Jill Masterton. Bond learns that Goldfinger killed Jill when she returned to him after leaving with Bond. Tilly has been tracking Goldfinger to kill him in revenge. Both Bond and Tilly are captured when they try to break into Goldfinger's metal laboratory in Geneva.

Goldfinger tortures Bond and threatens to kill him, but Bond does not break his cover. Certain that he is about to die, Bond blacks out. He wakes up in a small room in the United States. Goldfinger has not killed him, but has kidnapped him and Tilly and is holding them in adjoining rooms in a New York warehouse. Goldfinger tells them they are to act as secretaries for him as he plans one of the biggest robberies in history, stealing the gold from Fort Knox.

Goldfinger calls together the heads of several American crime syndicates to help in the scheme. He convinces them to help him in the elaborate heist, which will involve poisoning thousands of people through the water supply so that they can enter the military base posed as rescue workers. Goldfinger plans to blow open the vault using a small nuclear bomb. Desperately, Bond drops a note outlining the plan in the hope that it will be delivered to the authorities who might be able to stop it. In the meantime, Bond goes along with Goldfinger's scheme. He learns that Goldfinger plans to escape the country on a Russian submarine and to emigrate to the Soviet Union. This confirms that Goldfinger is connected with SMERSH.

On the day of the robbery, Goldfinger and his crew enter the base by train. As they slowly drive in on the rails, Bond sees people fallen all over the ground. The guards at the vault are also lying still, seemingly dead. As Goldfinger's crew begins to carry out the robbery, however, the soldiers spring to life and ambush them. Bond's note had been found and the President of the US himself had overseen the operation to thwart the plot. While trying to escape, Tilly Masterton is killed by Goldfinger's head henchman. Bond escapes, but so does Goldfinger.

Again, Bond is on his way back to England but is detained at the airport. He is told he must get a certain inoculation before boarding the plane. It turns out to be a sleeping drug he is given, and he wakes up again the prisoner of Goldfinger, now flying in a stolen airplane back to the Soviet Bloc to turn Bond over to SMERSH. With Goldfinger is Pussy Galore, the leader of one of the crime gangs that had undertaken the heist. She passes Bond a note that she will help him escape.



He needs no help, as it turns out. Using a knife concealed in his shoe, Bond breaks out one of the windows of the pressurized cabin. Goldfinger's lead henchman, a huge Korean man called Oddjob, is sucked out of the aircraft. Bond manages to hold on, and gets in a hand-to-hand battle with Goldfinger. Bond strangles him until he is dead. He then makes radio contact with the ground and commands the flight crew to make an emergency landing on the sea near the Canadian shore. The plane lands roughly, and Bond and Galore are the only survivors. They are rescued, and given adjoining cabins on the rescue ship. The novel closes as Bond takes Galore into his arms and kisses her.



Reflections in a Double Bourbon

Reflections in a Double Bourbon Summary

"Goldfinger" is a classic spy thriller featuring the dashing British gentleman spy James Bond, Agent 007. Bond works for the British Secret Service and is one of the elite "00" operatives with a "license to kill." After breaking up a heroin smuggling ring, Bond crosses paths in Miami with a British millionaire, Auric Goldfinger, who is obsessed with gold and has hoarded away enormous quantities of it. Under cover, Bond eventually gets closer to Goldfinger and becomes part of his outrageous scheme to rob Fort Knox of its gold. Bond also learns the Goldfinger is a major financier of SMERSH, the Soviet secret spy ring. With the help of the US military, Bond foils Goldfinger's plan, but he escapes. Later, Goldfinger kidnaps Bond and steals an airplane, intending to turn Bond over to SMERSH agents. Bond daringly forces the plane down over Canada, killing Goldfinger and most of his henchmen while surviving himself.

James Bond sits in Miami Airport drinking bourbon and waiting for his flight to New York. He reflects about the Mexican man he has killed recently, as part of his assignment to break up a Mexican heroin smuggling ring led by an English man named Blackwell. Posing as a potential buyer from London, Bond learned how Blackwell was using his fertilizer company as a front to process heroin. Bond destroyed the factory with a bomb, and then made an anonymous phone call to Blackwell warning him off trying to smuggle any more heroin into England. Blackwell's drug courier, a large Mexican man, had trailed Bond, however, and approached him on the street one night when he was alone. The Mexican pulled a knife on Bond, and Bond reacted automatically with two lethal blows. He now sits and rubs his sore hands while waiting for his flight.

A voice crackles over the loud speaker announcing that Bond's flight to New York has been delayed until the next morning. Bond finishes his second bourbon while deciding whether to try to get another flight or stay over in Miami. The bourbon gives him the thought that he should stay in Miami, get very drunk, and let himself go. He is feeling stressed about his last assignment and cannot stop thinking about all the killing that goes on in the world. He wants to take a break, even if only for one night.

Bond tells himself he is being too morose, that he just needs a change for a short while. As he is thinking this, an affluent looking middle-aged man approaches him. He seems to recognize Bond, and tentatively calls him by name.

Reflections in a Double Bourbon Analysis

The first chapter re-introduces Bond to Fleming's readers and gives a brief description of one of his assignments. This gives readers who may be unfamiliar with the character a quick idea of the kind of adventures he has had and is likely to have in the current



book. The opening chapter also gives a short glimpse into Bond's psyche as he contemplates death and killing.

The novel opens with Secret Agent James Bond in a rare dark, reflective mood. He does not enjoy killing, but looks on it as part of his duty. When he begins to think of the people he kills as humans with their own lives, it begins to stress him. He tries to rationalize his killing, but the first solution to his troubles that comes to mind is getting drunk and forgetting them for a while.



Living it Up

Living it Up Summary

Bond reluctantly returns the greeting to the American, who introduces himself as Junius Du Pont. Du Pont tells Bond that they have met before, in France, playing baccarat. Bond gradually recognizes the man and smiles at the memory of the baccarat game, in which he beat a French man named Le Chiffre. Pleased that Bond remembers him, Du Pont buys them each a drink. He was scheduled on the same flight as Bond, he explains.

Du Pont is cheerful and seems to consider himself lucky to have met up with Bond. He gingerly approaches the subject of Bond's profession, saying that he had heard after their last meeting that Bond was a kind of investigator or intelligence officer. Bond senses that Du Pont knows more than he is letting on, and gives a vague answer that he had done some of that kind of work in the war, but now worked for a firm called Universal Export. Du Pont seems to understand that this is a lie, but he plays along.

Du Pont finally tells Bond that he has a problem he would like some help with. He tells Bond that if he is planning to stay over in Miami, he will be happy to give him a room at a nice hotel that he owns. Bond decides he will help Du Pont before he has even heard what his problem is. He accepts the offer of the room, to Du Pont's delight.

Du Pont leads Bond to the entrance of the airport where a chauffeured car pulls up. He takes Bond to a seaside restaurant and orders a lavish meal for them both. Over the pre-dinner drinks, Du Pont tells Bond his problem. He has lost \$25,000 to one man playing canasta. He tells Bond that he is a good card player, and they agree that it is suspicious that his luck should be so bad. Bond flat out tells him he is probably being cheated. Du Pont agrees enthusiastically that this is what he feels himself, but that he can find no evidence of how his opponent does it. He kept on playing with him in the hopes of catching him, but he kept on losing. Finally, he paid up and tried to leave town in frustration, just to get away from the game for a while. He was leaving when the two met in the airport.

Du Pont tells Bond that it is as if his opponent knows every card he has in his hand. Bond asks him the name of the man who has been beating him. Du Pont tells Bond his name is Auric Goldfinger. He is English and has bright red hair. He is 42, and his profession is listed as "broker" on his passport, Du Pont says, but adds that he is secretive about his business or what he actually does. He is known to be quite wealthy and to keep his wealth in gold bars.

Dinner arrives, and Bond and Du Pont stuff themselves with rich food. Afterward, Bond is slightly disgusted with himself at his indulgence. Over coffee, Du Pont gets around to his proposition for Bond. He offers him \$10,000 if he will stay in Miami until he discovers how Goldfinger is cheating him at canasta. Bond agrees, but adds that he must be in



New York within two days to catch his flight back to London, so he can only stay until the next night. Du Pont agrees.

Living it Up Analysis

The character of Goldfinger is first referred to in this chapter in regards to his possible cheating. Goldfinger's dishonesty at games will play a role later in the story when he and Bond shoot a round of golf for high stakes.

At the end of the previous chapter, Bond found himself wishing to live the "high life" for a while. Now that he has had a taste of it, he has had his fill. This reveals Bond as a man with refined, but simple tastes. There is also reference to a "Puritan" streak that makes Bond feel guilty about his indulgence. Nevertheless, he enjoys and perhaps even craves adventure, and seems to relish the opportunity to take on Du Pont's challenge.



The Man with Agoraphobia

The Man with Agoraphobia Summary

Bond awakens in a luxurious room on the twelfth floor of the Floridiana Hotel. Stepping to his balcony, he surveys the hotel grounds. After showering and dressing, Bond goes over the situation in his mind while eating breakfast. The plan is for Bond to pose as a businessman in Miami to meet with Du Pont and to accompany Du Pont to his morning game of canasta with Goldfinger. He has asked Du Pont to give him a passkey to Goldfinger's hotel suite so that he might search it for evidence that Goldfinger is a regular cardsharp.

After breakfast, Bond sets out to explore the layout of the hotel before meeting Du Pont in the formal hotel garden. He meets with Du Pont, who gives him the passkey and leads him to the roof deck of the Cabana Club where Goldfinger is waiting. Bond's first view of Goldfinger is startling. He is sunbathing wearing only bikini shorts and holding a metal reflector under his face. Du Pont greets Goldfinger as they approach him, but he does not respond. Du Pont explains that he is somewhat deaf. They get closer and Du Pont greets him again. Goldfinger sits and stands, looking warily at Bond. Du Pont introduces them, but Goldfinger mishears Bond's name as "Bomb." He stares intently at Bond for a moment as they shake hands. Goldfinger turns back to Du Pont and says he assumes they will not play cards today since Du Pont has company. Du Pont says that in fact he is eager to play, and that Bond is curious to learn more about the game.

Goldfinger says he will get dressed while the table is made ready. He adds that he had planned to have a golf lesson that afternoon. He asks Bond if he plays golf, and mentions that he has recently joined a golf club in Sandwich, England named St. Marks. Bond says that he has played there. They discover they are both a nine handicap at golf, and Goldfinger casually suggests that they should play some time. Goldfinger leaves to get dressed, promising he will be back in five minutes.

While the card table is being set up, Bond reflects on Goldfinger and his relaxed manner, which seems to mask a powerful drive behind it. He remarks to himself that Goldfinger's short, thick body is offset oddly by his perfectly round head.

Goldfinger returns, dressed and wearing a large hearing aid, and he and Du Pont take their seats, with Du Pont sitting with his back to the hotel. Bond takes a seat next to him and watches as Du Pont pretends to explain the game to him. Bond eyes Goldfinger for signs that he is making false deals, but does not see any evidence of it. Goldfinger plays deliberately and begins to win. Du Pont loses over a thousand dollars after a few hands. Bond asks them if they ever cut for seats, just to mix up the luck a bit. Goldfinger explains seriously that he suffers from agoraphobia, the fear of open places, and can only play if he sits facing the hotel.



Bond gets up and excuses himself. He wanders off away from the table and watches a high diver in the pool for a while. He turns back and thinks about Goldfinger, as he looks at the two men playing cards. He wonders about Goldfinger's insistence that he face the hotel, which also means that Du Pont has his back to it. Remembering that Du Pont told him that Goldfinger was in room 200, Bond looks at the face of the hotel and determines the room is about twenty yards from the card table. He sees nothing there except an open door on the balcony. The interior is dark, but Bond suddenly has an idea of how Goldfinger might be cheating.

The Man with Agoraphobia Analysis

Goldfinger and Bond first meet in this chapter, each sizing the other up as potential rivals. The subject of golf is brought up, which lays the groundwork for the second meeting of the two men on the golf course in the second part of the novel. Bond begins to develop a begrudging respect for Goldfinger, who is about to become his adversary.

Fleming describes the game between the men in some detail, describing the cards that Du Pont holds and the course of the play. This kind of description is similar in the level of detail Fleming later gives the golf game between Bond and Goldfinger. Such descriptions insert the reader into the game, and enhance the entertaining aspect of the book.



Over the Barrel

Over the Barrel Summary

Bond lunches with Du Pont and learns that Goldfinger has a secretary who does not often leave his room. Bond tells Du Pont that he thinks he may have figured out how Goldfinger is cheating and tells Du Pont to return to play their usual afternoon game, and not to be surprised if Goldfinger begins to act strangely. Excited at the prospect of catching Goldfinger, Du Pont agrees.

Bond returns to his room and takes a camera outfit from his luggage. He also takes out his Walther PPK pistol and a holster, which he places under his waistband. He studies the arrangement of the rooms in his suite, assuming that it will be the same as Goldfinger's ten floors directly below. He practices using his passkey to open doors silently.

Finally, Bond makes his way to Goldfinger's room and lets himself in without a sound. Once inside, he hears a woman's voice speaking the names of playing cards. Without a sound, Bond steps into the room and sees a young woman dressed only in her underwear looking through a pair of tripod-mounted binoculars and speaking into a microphone attached to a transmitter, which Goldfinger picks up in his hearing aid. Bond sneaks up directly behind her so he can see the entire set-up, with the girl, the binoculars and through the window the two men at the table below, with Du Pont's cards visible. Bond snaps a photograph of the scene, and the flashbulb surprises the young woman, who spins around and demands to know who he is. Bond calmly introduces himself.

The young woman asks what he intends to do, and Bond replies that he wants to let Goldfinger stew for a while. In the meantime, he learns from the woman that she is Goldfinger's traveling companion. They discuss Goldfinger and agree that it is odd that someone so rich would be so eager to cheat to win a relatively small amount of money. Bond gets the impression that Goldfinger is a dangerous man, and that the young woman is possibly in danger herself.

Bond moves to speak into the microphone and the woman tries to talk him out of it, saying she is afraid of what Goldfinger might do to her. Bond says he has a job to do and proceeds to speak slowly into the microphone. He calmly tells Goldfinger that he has a picture of the whole set-up, but that he will not turn Goldfinger in if he admits to Du Pont that he has been cheating and pays him back all he has won, plus \$10,000 for Bond's fee. He watches as Goldfinger lays down his cards and writes a check to Du Pont. Bond makes one more demand. He tells Goldfinger to book him a drawing room compartment on a train to New York that night, and to have it stocked with champagne and caviar. Bond pauses and asks the girl her name. It is Jill Masterton. He returns to the microphone and tells Goldfinger he is taking Miss Masterton as a kind of hostage with him to New York, and to have her on the train, as well.



Over the Barrel Analysis

Bond displays his charm and wit in unmasking Goldfinger's plot, as well as a slightly malicious, mischievous streak. He learns a little more about Goldfinger and his obsession with gold from Jill Masterton. His sense that she is in danger turns out to be correct, and will eventually lead to one of the turning points in the story and the introduction of her sister, Tilly, as a secondary character.

For the first time in the book, Bond is shown engaging the basic methodical skills of his profession, such as casually surveying the layout of his surroundings and sneaking into rooms unheard. His casual charm with women, which he employs throughout the story, is also on display here for the first time.



Night Duty

Night Duty Summary

It is a week later, and Bond has returned to London. He has been assigned to the night shift at the headquarters of the British Secret Service, answering coded telephone dispatches from field stations all over the world. Bond was reluctant to take on such a routine assignment, but now finds he does not mind it. The work is not hard, and he is fed regularly from the canteen. During the slow times, he has time for a book he is writing about forms of hand-to-hand combat from around the world. For sources, he has several manuals from international secret services such as the CIA and the OSS. His most recent acquisition is a manual of combat techniques used by SMERSH, which is described as a "Soviet organization of vengeance and death." (p.59) Bond finds some of the techniques distasteful.

Turning away from the SMERSH manual, Bonds makes a call to the records department and asks if there is any information on Auric Goldfinger on file. The records clerk says he will check and call Bond back. In the meantime, Bond reflects on his romantic train ride from Miami to New York with Jill Masterton. Masterton had told Bond that Goldfinger seemed calm after Bond had exposed him, and told her to pass on a message that he would be back in England in a week and would like to have the golf game they had mentioned. Bond had tried to talk Jill out of returning to Goldfinger, but she insisted. Finally, he had given her the \$10,000 that he had been paid for the job, in case she needed to escape quickly. They had said goodbye at the train station.

The phone rings again, and it is records with the results of their search. They find three Goldfingers in the files, but none match the man Bond means. The records clerk says they might be able to find more if Bond had a picture. Bond remembers the film still in his camera from Miami, but decides it will be quicker to use a system called the Identicast to mock up a sketch of his face. As Bond is working on this, he receives word that he is wanted by M, the head of the secret service.

Bond makes his way to M's office. M tells Bond that he has been in touch with the Bank of England, and that the bank has their own form of spy service that has been investigating gold smuggling. He wants Bond to go to the bank that afternoon and meet with a man named Colonel Smithers, who will fill him in. M tells Bond that the bank is interested in an extremely wealthy man named Auric Goldfinger. Bond laughs at the coincidence, and tells M that he had just been trying to find out more information on the very man.



Night Duty Analysis

Bond's gallantry is on display in this chapter as he hands over his reward to the lovely Jill Masterton as she returns to the employment of Goldfinger. Bond will later regret that he did not try harder to keep Jill from leaving.

Some of the drudgery of international spy work is described in this chapter, affording a break in the action for Bond to reflect and work on his pet project, a compendium of manual fighting techniques. The Soviet secret agency SMERSH is mentioned for the first time in the story here, in connection with a particularly brutal fighting manual that Bond finds disgusting. Goldfinger's link to SMERSH is gradually revealed over the course of the story. "Goldfinger" was first published at the height of the Cold War, and the fictional Soviet-backed SMERSH organization would have seemed a natural enemy to the West at that time.



Talk of Gold

Talk of Gold Summary

That afternoon, Bond arrives at the Bank of England and is shown into the office of Colonel Smithers. After an awkward start, Smithers sets in enthusiastically to tell Bond about gold and the gold trade. Gold is sought after the world over, Smithers says, partly because of its beauty, and partly because it can be used everywhere and is very difficult to trace. The job of Smithers and his research crew is to monitor any movement of gold out of England, especially to places like India where it can be sold at a price higher than the official rate in England. There are also people who hoard gold, believing that it will hedge against economic catastrophe. The problem is compounded, Smithers says, by the fact that the world's supply of gold seems to be running out.

Smithers is interrupted by a phone call from someone asking about arrangements for a women's field hockey team. He deals with the call and apologizes to Bond, explaining that the bank has organized a sports program and he is in charge of a team. He then turns to the issue of smuggling. Most gold smuggled out of England is taken to India, he tells Bond, where the highest price for bullion is paid.

Smithers begins to tell Bond about Goldfinger. He came to England from Latvia at the age of twenty, in 1937, probably with a small amount of gold with him. He started up a chain of pawnshops that buy gold jewelry and other objects from people. These shops are legitimate and did very well. Goldfinger collected the gold objects regularly from the shops. After World War II, Smithers tells Bond, Goldfinger bought a large house in Reculver, a boat, and a Rolls Royce Silver Ghost car with armored plating. He set up a metallurgy lab on the grounds of his home, with another in Geneva, and began taking yearly trips to India in his boat.

One year, while returning from India, his boat ran aground, and he sold it for salvage. When the salvage crew began to dismantle the boat, Smithers says, they discovered a strange brown powder impregnated into the wooden supports of the boat. They sent the powder in for analysis, and it turned out to be gold. This news made it up to the English authorities who began to investigate into the cargo papers for Goldfinger's boat. He had listed the cargo as mineral fertilizers.

Smithers continues. He tells Bond that they then knew that Goldfinger had been smuggling gold to India, but they had no real evidence. His finances and tax returns looked normal for a businessman of his stature. They raided his metallurgy factory, but found that he was only making cheap alloys for jewelry. Smithers guesses that he had been tipped off. Without further evidence, Smithers says, they could not prosecute Goldfinger. Nevertheless, he adds, he has kept the file open.

In the meantime, he has discovered that Goldfinger is one of the richest men in the world, with gold bars deposited all over the world. These bars are his own, each marked



with a tiny letter Z somewhere on them. Smithers tells Bond that most of this gold belongs to England, and that the bank needs Bond's help to get it back.

Talk of Gold Analysis

This chapter contains very little action and is made up entirely of background information that will support the story. It consists mainly of a monologue by Colonel Smithers, with an occasional question from Bond to break up the speech and provide a change of direction. Bond learns more about Goldfinger's past and confirms his great wealth. Fleming inserts a small humorous episode. The venerable Colonel Smithers is interrupted in this serious monologue to take a phone call about who should play what position on the bank's women's field hockey team.



Thoughts in a D.B.III

Thoughts in a D.B.III Summary

Smithers shows Bond out of the bank and Bond returns to report to M. After giving his report, M asks Bond if he has any ideas for getting close to Goldfinger. Bond suggests that he take Goldfinger up on his invitation to play golf and perhaps beat him. Goldfinger is the kind of person who only respects those he thinks might be smarter than he. Bond tells M he will use his Universal Export cover story.

M gives Bond some more information about Goldfinger. Just that day, M tells Bond, he has handled one of Goldfinger's gold bars with his Z mark. It was found in a safe in Tangier that belonged to a SMERSH operative. M tells Bond that 19 of Goldfinger's gold bars have been captured since the end of World War II, and all of them were taken from SMERSH agents. He speculates the Goldfinger may even be SMERSH's financial backer.

The scene shifts to Bond driving his Aston Martin D.B. III sports car along the highways of England toward Sandwich, the seaside region where Goldfinger told Bond he had a home, and where he plays golf at the Royal St. Marks club. Bond's car is custom built with head and taillights that can change shape and color to throw off anyone he might be following at night. The car has other special features such as hidden compartments and a receiver that can be tuned to follow a homing device.

As he drives, Bond reflects over Goldfinger's possible connection to SMERSH. It makes sense, he thinks, as SMERSH has always had trouble getting money out of the country to its foreign agents. Having someone on the outside to provide funds to further their plan to take over the world would be a great advantage, and the scheme has all the hallmarks of a SMERSH operation, Bond thinks. Goldfinger's slow and nearly anonymous rise to wealth has probably been part of the plan all along, Bond imagines. Nobody outside the Soviet Union except M and Bond have any idea what Goldfinger's role has been in thousands of murders of western spies. Bond continues through the English countryside toward Ramsgate, where he takes a room at a hotel. Along the way, he passes Reculver and the grounds of Goldfinger's estate. There is a sign that says "Thanet Alloys" and through some trees, Bond makes out the roof of a factory.

After checking into his hotel, Bond drives to the Royal St. Marks golf course at Sandwich. Walking into the pro shop, he is greeted by Alfred Blacking, the club pro. Blacking greets Bond enthusiastically, remarking that he has not seen him in 15 or 20 years. Bond chats with Blacking and looks around the shop, reminiscing about the time as a teen when he often played two rounds a day at the club. He had been a good golfer, and at that time Blacking had told him that with practice he could go further, but Bond had sensed that his talents lied elsewhere than golf, and he had not been back to play at this course since he was a teen. He had continued playing on weekends around London, and had earned a nine handicap.



Bond asks Blacking if there are any other golfers available to play a round with. Blacking says there are none, it being the middle of the week. Bond asks Blacking if he is available, and he apologizes that he is already booked to play with a member that afternoon. Bond inquires about the man Blacking will be playing with and learns that it is none other than Goldfinger. Bond mentions that he has met the man, and asks about his golf game. Blacking is somewhat reluctant to answer, and finally intimates that Goldfinger has gained a reputation for cheating, but that he himself has never seen anything.

Blacking offers to let Bond play Goldfinger, but Bond declines to take the fee away from Blacking. Bond suggests a threesome, but Blacking says that Goldfinger will not play with three, saying they are too slow. Blacking tells Bond not to worry about the fee he would get from Goldfinger, because he will be glad to have the afternoon to finish some work in the shop. He tells Bond he has a good caddie for him named Hawker, who Bond remembers from his youth. Bond thanks Hawking, and asks him to just tell Goldfinger that he had dropped in to have a club repaired and let Goldfinger decide if he wants to play with Bond or not.

Hawking agrees and points out that Goldfinger's car is pulling in at that minute. Bond looks to see an old-fashioned bright yellow Rolls Royce Silver Ghost coming down the drive. At the wheel is Goldfinger in full driving gear including goggles. Beside him sits a shorter figure in a bowler hat. They are both staring straight ahead. Bond steps back into the shop out of sight and pretends to be inspecting a putter.

Thoughts in a D.B.III Analysis

This chapter provides some urgency to the assignment Bond has been given to get close to Goldfinger. He is suspected of being involved with the evil organization SMERSH. It also introduces one of James Bond's trademarks, the Aston Martin sports car with special modifications. The homing beacon receiver referred to here will be used later as Bond chases Goldfinger across France. Some of Bond's own personal background is also revealed. He is apparently an accomplished golfer who grew up in Sandwich or nearby, where he played the St. Mark's course regularly.

When Bond and Goldfinger cross paths in the gold course workshop, Bond's plan to get close to Goldfinger begins to evolve. He wants to appear to be a challenge to Goldfinger, who he thinks will be impressed. He also wants to suggest that he has a slightly darker side and would be open to an invitation to join Goldfinger's operation.



All to Play For

All to Play For Summary

Goldfinger enters the shop and greets Blacking. He has seen a car outside and wonders if there is someone looking for a game. Blacking responds that the car belongs to an old member who has come to have a club made. Goldfinger asks who it is, and Blacking tells him. Goldfinger mentions that he has met Bond, and asks Blacking about his game. Blacking replies that he was once good as a boy, but that he has not seen him play since then. Bond overhears the conversation from the workshop, and pretends to be busy as Goldfinger walks in.

Bond acts surprised by Goldfinger, and pretends to have some difficulty remembering his name, trying to show slight dislike for him. Goldfinger asks if Jill Masterton had given him his message that he played at St. Mark's and would like to play with Bond some time. Bond lies that he did not get that message. Nevertheless, Goldfinger tells Bond that they will play now. Bond is pleased that Goldfinger has taken the bait, but he does not want to appear too eager. He says he is out of practice and suggest they play another time, and besides there probably is no caddie. Goldfinger lies that he has not played for some time, either, and asks Blacking if there is a caddie for Bond. Blacking says there is.

Bond acts as if he has no choice but to play, but warns Goldfinger that he likes to play for money. Goldfinger is delighted, and says that is not a problem. He asks Bond his handicap, and he responds that it is nine strokes. Goldfinger points to a board in the shop that indicates he is also a nine handicap, and they agree to play a level game. Goldfinger suggests they play for the \$10,000 that Bond took from him in Miami. Bond replies that the amount is too high, but then pretends to reconsider and accepts the terms.

Bond goes to his car to get his gear, passing the large man in the bowler polishing the Rolls Royce. The man watches Bond closely. Bond thinks about the upcoming golf match and realizes that he must not lose. He returns to the clubhouse, changes and greets Hawker, the caddie. While Goldfinger is putting on the practice green, Bond repeats an old trick from his youth, hitting a ball onto the roof of the starter's hut.

The two men prepare to tee off. Goldfinger tells Bond that he is playing with a Dunlop ball marked with a number one. Bond replies that he is playing with Penfold balls, marked with hearts. They agree to play by the strict rules of golf. Goldfinger wins the coin toss to tee off first. Goldfinger hits a solid but safe drive on his first shot. Bond decides to play aggressively. Goldfinger wins the first hole, and Bond begins to worry that he is facing a tough battle.



All to Play For Analysis

The epic golf match that takes up the entirety of the following chapter gets underway here. Bond is displaying the height of his skill in subtly manipulating Goldfinger into challenging him to a high stakes golf match. Goldfinger, Bond guesses, likes to feel in control of the situation, and Bond lets him think he is. Bond will later have doubts about whether he is actually the one being manipulated.

Alfred Blacking is described as never having told a lie in his life. He is one of the few completely British characters in the novel, and personifies a simple, honest working class ideal. Nearly all the truly upright characters in the novel are British.



The Cup and the Lip

The Cup and the Lip Summary

The golf game continues and Bond wins the second hole to even the score. On the third hole, Goldfinger's ball lands in some rough grass with a large tuft right behind the ball. Bonds watches as Goldfinger casually steps on the tuft to flatten it out, which is against the rules. Bond decides to let it go and resolves to keep an eye on Goldfinger's play. They tie the third and fourth holes to keep the score even. As Bond is hitting the ball off the tee on the fifth, a sudden clang distracts him, causing him to hit the ball wide. He turns quickly to see that the sound was Goldfinger dropping his club. Goldfinger apologizes, and Bond tells him not to do it again.

As they walk down the course, Goldfinger asks Bond about the firm he works for. Bond explains that Universal Export exports all kinds of things, and that his specialty is small arms. Bond adds that he is thinking of leaving the business and moving to Canada, and has come to the seaside to think over his decision. Goldfinger seems interested in this news. The men continue to play, with Goldfinger jangling change in his pocket while Bond makes his second shot. Bond asks him to stop. They tie the fifth hole as well, and the game is still even.

On the sixth hole, Goldfinger's ball lands in a sand bunker in a deep heel mark. Bond is heartened to see this, sensing a chance to gain a point. Somehow, Goldfinger manages to make a seemingly impossible shot out of the bunker, to Bond's great surprise. Goldfinger wins the hole and Bond goes down a point. Bond loses the seventh hole as well to go down two. They tie the eighth hole, but Bond loses the ninth. He is now down three holes.

Lamenting to his caddie, Bond asks for a new ball. Hawker asks Bond if he noticed that Goldfinger had cheated on the sixth hole. Bond had not seen it. Hawker tells him that Goldfinger had jumped up to get a look at the pin, and came down just behind the ball to smooth out the hole it was lying in. Bond thanks Hawker for the information and resolves once more to win.

On the tenth hole, Bond makes a difficult putt to win the hole. On the eleventh tee, Bond asks Goldfinger about Jill Masterton. Goldfinger responds simply that she no longer works for him. Bond says he should get in touch with her again, and asks where she went. Goldfinger replies that he does not know. Bond manages to win the eleventh hole. He is now only one hole behind. They tie the next three holes.

On his second shot of the fifteenth hole, Bond is once again distracted by Goldfinger, who walks behind him to cast a shadow on his ball. Bond asks him to move. Despite the distraction, Bond makes a good shot and wins the hole to even the game again. They tie the next hole to keep it even.



On the seventeenth hole, Bond hits a good drive but Goldfinger's goes into some deep grass. As Bond approaches the area where the ball would have gone, Goldfinger and the two caddies are searching for Goldfinger's ball. Bond steps on a ball in the grass and looks at it. It is a Dunlop, the same type as Goldfinger's, but it is a number seven, not a number one. He shows the ball to Goldfinger and puts it in his pocket. The golf rules allow five minutes to search for a ball before the player must give up. As the time runs down, Bond reminds Goldfinger. Suddenly, Goldfinger's caddie, named Foulkes, calls out that he has found the ball. It is lying well off the line that it was seen traveling on, and Bond is suspicious. Goldfinger makes a good shot onto the green.

Approaching the green, Bond discusses the matter with Hawker. Hawker says he knows that the ball Foulkes found was not Goldfinger's, because he himself had found it first and had put his bag of clubs on it while they looked for it. Bond begins to think of how he can turn the tables on Goldfinger. Remembering the Dunlop number seven ball in his pocket, he comes up with a plan. He slips the ball to Hawker and tells him to be sure to pick up the balls from the green after the hole, and to switch it for Goldfinger's Dunlop number one. They tie the hole, and Hawker makes the switch. Bond hopes only that Goldfinger does not notice the switch.

Goldfinger tees off with the switched ball on the eighteenth without seeming to notice. Bond is exuberant inside, thinking that he has now trapped Goldfinger. Goldfinger continues to play the switched ball while Bond is careful to miss his last putt to lose the hole and the match. Afterward, Bond picks up the two balls from the green and carries them over to Goldfinger. Looking at the balls to pick out Goldfinger's, Bond notes that the ball is a number seven, not a number one. He tells Goldfinger he has been playing with the wrong ball, and therefore loses the hole and the match. Goldfinger is furious and accuses Hawker of switching the balls. Hawker calmly offers his opinion that the mix-up occurred when Goldfinger found his ball so far from where they had all seen it go on the previous hole. Goldfinger insists that Bond saw it was a Dunlop number one that was found. Bond replies that he didn't look closely, and besides it is the responsibility of the player to make sure he is using the right ball. He thanks Goldfinger and strolls off, while Goldfinger looks after him angrily.

The Cup and the Lip Analysis

Fleming provides close detail of the golf match between the two men, down to the intricacies of the layout of the course. This level of detail adds to the overall scenery of the novel, but also creates a slow spot in the story except perhaps for the golf enthusiast. Goldfinger's "win at all costs" mentality is further developed here, where he is shown engaged in some blatant unsportsmanlike behavior as well as more subtle but outright cheating. It is suggested that Bond's own cheating to win the match is justified because of this.

This is one of the longer chapters in the book, and is taken up entirely with the description of the golf match. While it provides a temporary diversion in the story line, it

sets the stage for the rivalry between Bond and Goldfinger, which gives an extra edge to Bond's pursuit of Goldfinger, and Goldfinger's dramatic response.



Up at the Grange

Up at the Grange Summary

Back in his hotel room, Bond ruminates in the bath over the events of the day. He guesses that Goldfinger is the kind of person who likes to manipulate people, and reflects that this time it was Goldfinger who was manipulated when Bond managed to lure him into a high stakes game. However, Bond asks himself if Goldfinger really was unaware that he was being played. Bond hopes that he has appeared as an "interesting challenge" to Goldfinger in order to draw him closer, but is afraid he might simply have looked like a threat. Wrapped in a towel after his bath, Bond hears a knock at the door. It is a hotel porter telling him that Goldfinger has invited him to dinner that evening. Bond accepts the invitation.

That evening, Bond drives slowly to Reculver, where Goldfinger's mansion is. AS he drives, he mulls over how he and Goldfinger parted at the golf club. Goldfinger had asked where to send Bond's winnings, and Bond told him to send them to Universal Export. Goldfinger told Bond he was leaving the next day by air ferry for France. Bond had taken a closer look at Goldfinger's chauffeur at that time, a large muscular Korean man.

Bond drives up to the house, called The Grange, parks and rings the front door bell. The large chauffeur answers the door and shows him into a large hall with a tray of drinks on a low table. Shortly after he is let in, Goldfinger appears and then immediately excuses himself, saying he has to go into the town to bail one of his staff members out of jail. Bond is left alone in the mansion, which sits on the same grounds as Goldfinger's metal factory. He begins to look around the place. In the factory, he sees several men working on a Rolls Royce Silver Ghost automobile. They are removing body plates and riveting new ones in place.

Back in the mansion, Bond discovers a cabinet in an upstairs bedroom that contains several movie cameras that have been recording his movements around the house. He exposes the film, arranges it to look as though the cat has done it, and returns to the downstairs hall to wait for Goldfinger.

As he waits, Bond wonders if he has really learned anything about Goldfinger. He is impressed with the surveillance setup and believes it is up to the high standards of SMERSH. He realizes that Goldfinger will probably know that it was Bond who ruined the film, and wonders how he will take it. Bond sits and takes up a magazine. Goldfinger returns.

Up at the Grange Analysis

The cat and mouse game between Goldfinger and Bond continues, but Bond is not completely certain who is the cat and who the mouse. Goldfinger deliberately leaves



Bond alone as an invitation to snoop around while he himself spies on Bond. Bond foils his plan once more.

A few key points are revealed in this chapter. First is Goldfinger's apparent affinity for home surveillance to protect his privacy, which will play a part in a later chapter. Second is the nature of his armored car, which has body parts that can be removed and then riveted back in place. The car will turn out to be a crucial element in Goldfinger's gold smuggling operation.



The Odd-Job Man

The Odd-Job Man Summary

Goldfinger returns and tells Bond a lie about the business that he was supposedly called way on. They chat for a short while, and then Goldfinger excuses himself to go upstairs to wash for dinner. Bond imagines his steps as he discovers the spoiled film in the bedroom. After a short while, Goldfinger comes back down the stairs carrying the cat. He rings a bell, and then Goldfinger asks Bond if he likes cats and Bond responds that he does.

The Korean chauffeur enters the room in response to the bell. Goldfinger introduces him to Bond as his handyman, called Oddjob. Goldfinger tells Oddjob to show Bond his hands. Oddjob holds them out and Bond notes that they are large and muscular and seemingly covered with thick, bony skin. Goldfinger tells Bond he will give him a demonstration, and Oddjob goes to the heavy wooden railing of the stairway and with one blow of his hand shatters a portion of it. Then, at Goldfinger's command, Oddjob jumps into the air and kicks the mantelpiece of the fireplace seven feet from the floor, leaving a large splintered dent in it.

Bond is impressed and shakes Oddjob's hand. Goldfinger thanks Oddjob and gives him the cat, telling him he may eat it for dinner. Bond understands Goldfinger's meaning in the demonstration. It is a warning. As Oddjob is leaving the room, Bond asks why he always wears the bowler hat. Goldfinger calls to Oddjob, who turns and flings the hat toward a wooden panel on the wall. The rim of the hat sticks an inch into the wood. Goldfinger explains that it is made from a light but strong metal alloy.

Over dinner, Goldfinger tells Bond that he does not smoke or drink, but invites Bond to have some wine. He explains that he has analyzed several alcoholic beverages and found them to contain poisonous compounds. Bond changes the subject to Oddjob, asking how he came to have such abilities. Goldfinger explains that he is an expert in karate, and gives Bond a brief description of the art. The subject moves on the Goldfinger's need for a bodyguard and his heavily armored car. He tells Bond that he takes the car with him twice a year to golf in Europe.

Bond hints that he would like to take such a trip some time, and Goldfinger remarks that he can afford to with his winnings. They begin to talk about money, with Bond trying to portray himself as someone eager to make a lot of money, but unable to find a good racket. He tells Goldfinger that he was once involved in a heroin smuggling ring, and tells him the story of the ring that he broke up earlier, pretending that he was part of it. Goldfinger does not seem overly impressed, and does not follow Bond's lead with an offer to take him into his own operation. Bond senses that he is not making progress, but does not press the matter. The men say goodnight in an ambiguous way, with Bond unsure of whether Goldfinger is inviting him to contact him in the future. Later, in his

room, Bond decides he must try to get in touch with Goldfinger again, but that he will need a good story.

The Odd-Job Man Analysis

The brutal character of Oddjob is formally introduced in this chapter. Just as Bond imagines Goldfinger is very powerful beneath his calm exterior, so Oddjob is outwardly quiet but possesses great power and skill. Bond is more intrigued than frightened by Oddjob, hinting to Goldfinger casually over dinner that he might know a few lethal tricks with his hands himself. The parallel the Fleming makes between Bond and Oddjob is subtle, but plain. They are both hired killers.

Goldfinger tells Bond over dinner about his twice-yearly private flights to Europe with his armored car, providing the background for the next chapters in which Bond tracks Goldfinger as he drives through Europe.



Long Tail on a Ghost

Long Tail on a Ghost Summary

The next morning, Bond calls in to the headquarters of the Secret Service and gives a cryptic report of his progress. He tells the Chief of Staff on the phone that Goldfinger will be flying with his car to France that day, and that he wants to arrange to be alone with his car at some point in order to plant a homing device on it. The Chief of Staff replies that he has heard that Bond's golf game was for some very high stakes. Bond asks how he knows, and is told that someone tipped off Scotland Yard that someone at Universal Export was in possession of a large amount of cash, and that an envelope with Bond's winnings had arrived at the office. Goldfinger had paid, but had also tried to get Bond in trouble over it.

The Service calls back and tells Bond that Goldfinger is leaving that day at noon. Bond takes his car to the airfield and finds he is expected by the customs officials, who think he is a policeman who has come to check the car for secret compartments. They allow him to look Goldfinger's car over himself before it is loaded onto the plane, where Goldfinger is already on board. There is another car waiting to be loaded, a gray Triumph convertible. Bond plants the homing device in the luggage compartment of the Rolls Royce and watches as it is loaded onto the plane. He returns to his car and presses a button under the dash. A drone emits from a receiver picking up the homing signal. Bond leaves the airfield, telling them he will be back to take the next flight over in two hours. Bond relishes the chase.

The scene shifts to France, where Bond has landed with his D.B. III. He asks a policeman which way the Rolls Royce went when it arrived, and is told it head south. Bond takes off and tunes in his homing signal receiver. He follows the strength of the signal until he is certain he is on the right trail.

Driving down a country road as it grows dark, Bond sees a car ahead. As he approaches, he sees it is a gray Triumph. He passes the car and then spots another car a mile ahead. Flashing his lights, he sees it is the Rolls Royce and he falls back. Outside the French town of Orleans, Bond pulls over and the Triumph passes him. Bond drives into the town with the drone of the homing signal staying constant. He sees the Rolls in front of a hotel. Bond finds a hotel himself and stays the night.

The next morning, the Rolls is still parked in the same place. Bond watches as it pulls away to see which road it takes, then follows. Bond enjoys the spring scenery along the Loire River where he is driving, but is suddenly surprised by a loud car horn behind him. It is the gray Triumph again, which roars past him. Bond catches sight of the driver, a very pretty girl. Bond begins to daydream about catching up to her and seducing her in a romantic setting. He shakes himself out of his daydream, reminding himself that he is working. He suddenly remembers that he has seen the Triumph before, at the airfield



waiting to be loaded onto a plane. He realizes the girl must also be tailing Goldfinger, and speeds up to keep sight of her.

Bond temporarily loses the trail, but finds it again using the homing signal. He is looking for the Triumph when he realizes that the drone has become very loud. Coming over a hill, he sees the Rolls ahead, parked along the side of the road near a bridge. Ducking quickly down a side path, Bond hides his car and watches Goldfinger through binoculars. He is sitting along the road, having a picnic lunch. Oddjob is with him. Bond figures that the girl must have had to drive past Goldfinger and is waiting ahead, unless he is wrong and she is not chasing him after all.

Bond watches as Goldfinger eats, then gathers his trash and begins to put it under the bridge. Bond immediately suspects that Goldfinger may be leaving something for a SMERSH operative to recover later, perhaps money. Bond watches as Goldfinger gets back in the Rolls and drives away. He continues down to the bridge and looks where Goldfinger had been. There, under a bit of dirt below the bridge arch, he finds a single gold bar.

Long Tail on a Ghost Analysis

High-tech gadgetry is part of Bond's tool kit, and he uses the homing beacon here to allow him to follow Goldfinger from a distance, although Bond also has to rely on luck. The mysterious pretty woman in the gray Triumph convertible distracts Bond from his duty, nearly leading him into exposing himself to Goldfinger. Bond's suspicion that Goldfinger is financing SMERSH operations is practically confirmed by the discovery of the gold bar that he leaves under the bridge.

This chapter consists of supporting information that will be built on in the rest of the story, with only a little advancement of the plot. Fleming provides some vivid description of the French countryside in this chapter, and gives Bond an extensive knowledge of the region, adding to his development as a world-savvy international spy.



'If You Touch Me There...'

'If You Touch Me There...' Summary

Bond realizes the importance of what he has discovered. He hides the gold bar in one of the secret compartments in his car, telling himself he must turn it in to a Secret Service station as soon as possible. In the meantime, he must catch up with Goldfinger before the next major fork in the road to learn which way he is heading. He also decides he must find out more about the girl, and get her out of his way.

Bond follows on to another small town and gets close enough to see the Rolls continue on toward Switzerland. He decides he must stop for fuel and to get something to eat. Looking in his rear view mirror, he sees the gray Triumph on his tail. He suddenly stops his car and throws it in reverse, smashing into the front of the Triumph.

Bond gets out of the car and steps back to the Triumph. The girl gets out, furious. She slaps Bond on the face and yells at him. Bond responds calmly that he will pay for the repairs and for her to stay the night there until her car is fixed. He says he must be going, and tries to give her some money. She refuses to take it, saying she desperately needs to get to Geneva for an appointment. She asks Bond to give her a ride in his car. Bond examines the girl, wondering what her reason is for following Goldfinger. He is impressed by her manner and her beauty. He finally agrees to take her to Geneva. He gives her some money and asks her to get them something to eat while he makes arrangements for her car. He asks her name and address, and she gives the name of a hotel in Geneva and says her name is Tilly Soames. She moves her things into his car herself, which include a golf bag that is zipped shut.

A short while later they are on the road toward Geneva. She tells Bond she is a golfer on her way to a tournament in Geneva. Bond tries to find a crack in her story and get a glance at her passport, but he cannot. He takes her to a hotel in Geneva and they say goodbye.

Bond follows the homing signal to a house behind a high wall. On the gate is a sign that says "Enterprises Auric" and Bond realizes it is Goldfinger's Swiss factory. Bond parks and gets out for a closer look. Squeezing through an iron railing, he gets onto the grounds of the house and examines it through binoculars. It is a square brick house with some workshops nearby. The Rolls is parked in the courtyard. From one of the workshops, a chimney extends with a revolving device at the top that reminds Bond of a radar scanner.

Bond watches as Goldfinger comes out of the house followed by another man, leading him to the Rolls. The other man blows a whistle and a crew of men come from one of the workshops and begins to take the car apart. Bond realizes they are stripping it of its armor plates. He sees Oddjob come from the house and signal to Goldfinger, who goes back inside. Bond takes one more look around and leaves.



The scene shifts to the office of a British company in Geneva. Bond enters and announces he is from Universal Export, giving the code phrases that identify him to the businessman at the desk as a British agent. He gives the bar of gold to the man, telling him to get it back to England. He also dictates a message to be delivered to headquarters. He asks the man what he can tell him about Enterprises Auric. The man responds that they make metal furniture for trains and airplanes. Bond asks which airlines they provide the seats for, and he answers that they did all the seats for Mecca, an Indian airline.

With this news, Bond smiles as he puts the pieces of the puzzle together. The Rolls Royce is actually plated with gold, not steel. The gold is fashioned into plates at Goldfinger's shop in England, then attached to the Rolls and driven to Geneva, where it is removed and refashioned into aircraft seats, which are flown into India and melted down back into gold bullion.

'If You Touch Me There...' Analysis

The title of the chapter comes from an offhand and slightly off color remark that Bond makes to Tilly Masterton after backing his car into hers on purpose. "If you touch me there again you'll have to marry me," Bond says, but the joke falls flat. (p. 178) This begins the awkward relationship Bond has with Tilly, who seems to be the only woman resistant to his charms. Bond fails to recognize Tilly's lie about being a golfer until the next chapter, when it becomes obvious that he should have. Her insistence that she move her own luggage paired with the zipped up golf bag suggests that the rifle she has in the next chapter is hidden in the bag. Once again, it seems Bond has been distracted from his duty by a woman.

The pieces of Goldfinger's smuggling operation and his support of SMERSH all seem to be in place. Bond only needs to substantiate the connections. For all his efforts, the details of Goldfinger's smuggling operation seem to have eluded Bond until the British agent in Geneva almost casually reveals them to him. In retrospect, Bond has not discovered anything new about Goldfinger but merely connected various bits of information that are already known about him. The smuggling operation becomes secondary, however, as the story rapidly and dramatically changes direction in the following chapter.



Things that Go Bump in the Night

Things that Go Bump in the Night Summary

Bond books a room at the same hotel where he left Tilly and is not surprised to find there is no Tilly Soames in the register. He wonders if she has registered under a different name or gone to another hotel. He mulls over the probably details of Goldfinger's smuggling plot in his mind and wonders again about Tilly. He inquires about the golf tournament and is told that golf tournaments are not played there in the spring. Bond realizes she must not be a professional spy to use such a flimsy cover. He had wondered if she might be a SMERSH agent keeping an eye on Goldfinger, but he decides she does not have the thorough training.

Bond prepares to sneak back into the grounds of Goldfinger's house. He is nearly finished with his assignment, he believes, needing only to find even a speck of gold on the grounds as evidence. From there it will be a matter for the Swiss police. After dark, he sets out to return to the house.

Bond carefully makes his way through the trees on the grounds. Suddenly he becomes aware of somebody lying on the ground among the trees. He sees that it is Tilly, and she has a rifle with her. Bond silently comes up behind her and falls on her, pulling the gun away from her and closing his hand over her mouth. She bites and squirms trying to escape until Bond whispers desperately in her ear that he is a friend and telling her to hold still and listen. She stops fighting and nods.

She tells Bond that she is Jill Masterton's sister and has come to kill Goldfinger in revenge for his killing Jill. Bond is astonished to learn Jill is dead and asks what happened. Tilly describes how she was called to an emergency room where her sister was dying. Jill told Tilly that Goldfinger had hypnotized her, and then painted her completely with gold. This had the effect of suffocating the pores of her skin, leading to her death. Bond is nearly overcome by this news, because he knows that he is responsible for Jill's death.

Suddenly, an arrow flies between the two, sticking into a nearby tree. Oddjob stands a few yards away, aiming a second arrow at them. Bond acts casual, greeting Oddjob and telling him tell Goldfinger they have enjoyed their walk in the forest and would be leaving. Oddjob motions for them to come with him into the house. As Tilly and Bond move toward the house, each accuses the other of spoiling the plan. Bond notices the revolving dish atop one of the chimneys again and suddenly realizes it must be a kind of sonic detector.

They are searched by some of Goldfinger's staff, and then led into the house to a room where Goldfinger sits. He stares calmly at Bond. Bond begins to reel off his cover story. He pretends to be furious that Goldfinger turned him in to the police over his golf game winnings, and that he has come to find out why he did it. He calls Tilly his girlfriend, Miss



Soames. Goldfinger does not react. He calmly tells Bond that he considers the intrusion "enemy action" and that he intends to get to the truth. He calls to Oddjob to take them to a place called the "Pressure Room." (p. 204)

Things that Go Bump in the Night Analysis

The story becomes a little congested in this chapter, as Bond and Tilly Masterton's paths cross in the unlikely location of the trees surrounding Goldfinger's house. Here, practically in sight of the man they are trying to sneak up on, they pause for a lengthy discussion that fills in Tilly's back-story and motivation. They are surprised when Oddjob suddenly appears, but the reader may not be, owing to the long time they seem to be tarrying in the woods.

This chapter ends the second part of the book, which began with the second meeting between Bond and Goldfinger on the golf course. Their first meeting was on neutral ground, the second on Bond's home golf course. Now Bond is on Goldfinger's turf, and the prospects do not seem good.



The Pressure Room

The Pressure Room Summary

Bond's immediate action is to lunge at Goldfinger across his desk and grab him by the neck, trying to strangle him. As he tightens his grip around his neck, he is hit from behind and loses consciousness.

Bond slowly awakens to realize he is strapped down to a metal table with a large lamp overhead. He sees Goldfinger sitting at some kind of control panel, and Tilly sitting strapped in a chair with a dazed look on her face. Oddjob stands nearby, shirtless, and grinning in anticipation. Bond lifts his head to look around and sees that he is in one of the workshops and is strapped to a table with a slit down the center. At the end of the table, between his feet, is a large circular saw blade. Bond lays back and listens to Goldfinger speak.

Goldfinger says that he is now certain that Bond is an enemy, and under hypnotism has learned that Tilly has come to kill him. Goldfinger tells Bond that it was a mistake to ever cross his path, and that he has killed many people who have tried to stop him before. He starts up the saw blade.

Bond begins to wonder about death. He will not give up his cover story, and takes some comfort in knowing that after he dies, another agent will soon be on Goldfinger's trail. Goldfinger tells Bond that if he tells him the truth, he will kill him quickly. If he does not, he will be tortured to death. Bond tells Goldfinger that they will be easily traced to him, and demands that he let them both go. Goldfinger says he is not worried about being bothered by the police, as he can destroy all evidence of them in one of his furnaces. Goldfinger sets the saw blade slowly in motion toward Bond. In the meantime, Oddjob begins to carefully press and jab at Bond with his fingers, putting him in extreme pain. Bond retreats into his mind and thinks about his impending death.

Goldfinger again asks Bond to tell him who he really is and what he wants. If he will tell, Goldfinger says, he will be given a pill that will kill him painlessly. Bond says he has nothing else to tell. He makes an offer that he and Tilly will work for him if Goldfinger will let him go. Goldfinger scoffs at this. Bond then calmly tells Goldfinger off with an epithet, and stops talking. As the pain increases and the noise of the saw fills his head, Bond prepares to die.

The Pressure Room Analysis

This chapter is perhaps the most intense in the book, and finds Bond again contemplating death, this time his own. Goldfinger's ruthless brutality is fully on display as he calmly prepares to saw Bond in half. Goldfinger confirms that he killed Jill Masterton in retaliation for Bond thwarting his small scheme in Miami, and hints that he has killed others for the same reason.



Goldfinger hints at even bigger schemes that he has in the works, which will be played out in the last part of the novel. Bond's final plea to work for Goldfinger is not immediately successful, but plants a seed in Goldfinger's mind that ultimately saves Bond from certain death. The theme of death and responsibility is developed further in this chapter, as Bond confirms that his actions led to the murder of Jill Masterton.



The Last and the Biggest

The Last and the Biggest Summary

Bond slowly regains consciousness and for a short time thinks he is in the afterlife. He hears a voice tell him that he is at Idlewild Airport in New York. He opens his eyes and looks around. He is on a stretcher on the floor. Tilly is on a stretcher next to him, unconscious. Some people gather around him, and he sees Goldfinger, Oddjob and a doctor enter the room. Goldfinger tells the doctor that Bond and Tilly are members of his staff who have had nervous breakdowns and have been directed to have complete rest.

Bond turns to the doctor and calmly tells him that he and the girl have been kidnapped and that he wishes to see the chief of immigration. Goldfinger shakes his head and taps his temple, and tells the doctor that Bond is delusional. He tells the doctor he is taking them to a specialist, and asks the doctor to give them a sedative, which he does. Bond begins to scream.

Again, he wakes in a strange room. It is plain, with no windows. He sits up on the bunk where he was lying and discovers he is naked. In a drawer under the bunk, he finds his belongings, including his shoes. Taking one of the shoes, he pulls at the heel and removes a large knife hidden in the shoe. He checks the other shoe, which also has a hidden knife, and puts them away. He gets dressed.

Opening one of the two doors in the room, he finds a small bathroom with another door. He goes through the door and finds a room similar to his own where Tilly Masterton is sleeping. He returns to the bathroom to shave and wash up, and then goes back to his room. Shortly afterward, Oddjob enters through the other door. Bond barks at him to bring him some food, some bourbon and some cigarettes, and to replace his watch. Oddjob makes a noise and spits on the ground, then turns and leaves abruptly.

One of Goldfinger's servants brings Bond everything he asked for. He tries to learn more about where he is, but can only guess that he is in New York. After finishing his meal, Goldfinger enters the room. He is holding a pistol. Goldfinger says he will tell Bond where he is and what has happened to him, and then he has a proposition to which Bond must reply.

Goldfinger says that he was impressed with Bond's character in the face of death, and at the last moment decided to spare him so that he might use him. He is beginning an "enterprise" in which Bond might be of service, he says, as well as Masterton. Goldfinger explains that he sedated them both, then paid their hotel bills and gathered their belongings in Geneva. He tells Bond that he sent a telegram to universal Export signed from Bond that said he had been offered a position in Canada and was flying over to find out more, taking Masterton with him. Bond realizes that this telegram will tip off the Secret Service who will be certain it is not from him.



Goldfinger seems to answer Bond's thoughts by telling him it does not matter who he is or whom he works for because he has disappeared, as has Goldfinger and all his staff. He has no criminal record and cannot be traced. He tells Bond that they are in a trucking warehouse that has been turned into the headquarters for his present endeavor. This is where Bond and Masterton will live and work.

Bond asks him what type of work they will be doing. Goldfinger embarks on a long description of his love for gold and his various schemes to obtain it. He tells Bond he has twenty million dollars worth of gold, all in New York. He describes how he uses human nature to create opportunities to make money and obtain more gold. Bond asks what his latest enterprise is, and Goldfinger replies that his latest plan is to be his last one, and the biggest of all. He begins to talk in grand terms about the crime he intends to commit, without giving any details except that it is a robbery that will require much preparation. Bond and Masterton will act as his secretaries as he prepares to execute the scheme. In return, Bond will receive a million British pounds in gold, with Masterton getting half a million.

Bond retains his cover as a criminal eager to make a large score and responds enthusiastically to Goldfinger's proposal. He jokingly asks Goldfinger if he is planning to rob the end of the rainbow. Goldfinger responds that indeed he is. He plans to rob Fort Knox.

The Last and the Biggest Analysis

The story takes a dramatic twist in this chapter as Bond awakes to find he is thousands of miles from where he last remembers and is not dead after all. The discovery of Goldfinger's gold smuggling racket is meaningless now. It has all just been leading up to this enormous accomplishment, which Goldfinger describes as being the biggest crime ever undertaken.

The shift comes somewhat abruptly, and it is perhaps difficult to follow why the character of Goldfinger would go from being about to calmly murder Bond and Masterton to revealing to them his entire scheme to rob Fort Knox. One explanation is that he has no intention of letting them go and is only keeping them around to flaunt his accomplishments.



Hoods' Congress

Hoods' Congress Summary

Bond remarks humorously that robbing Fort Knox seems like a big job for just the three of them. Goldfinger is not amused, and replies that he will have around one hundred people recruited from the best gangsters in the United States. Bond begins to ask for more details of the plot, but Goldfinger stops him. He tells him his questions will be answered later at a meeting at two-thirty that afternoon, when Goldfinger will present his plan to the heads of the six greatest mobs in the country. Bond and Masterton are to be present.

Goldfinger leaves the room and Bond goes to speak with Masterton. She is cold to him, and tells him she expects him to get them out of their situation. Bond encourages her to eat something and orders breakfast for her from Oddjob. Bond returns to her room and tells her he is from Scotland Yard, the English police force. He explains that he is after Goldfinger and then tells her about Goldfinger's proposition. She is reluctant to go along with his cover to pretend to be greedy for the money and to cooperate with Goldfinger, but she finally agrees.

Bond hears the door to his room open, and returns to find a typewriter and a memo from Goldfinger instructing him to type up an agenda for the meeting that afternoon. The meeting is to be a discussion of "Operation Grand Slam" with the heads of six gangs present. Their names are Helmut Springer of the Purple Gang of Detroit, Jed Midnight of the Shadow Syndicate in Miami, Billy "The Grinner" Ring of The Machine in Chicago, Jack Strap from the Spangled Mob in Las Vegas, Mr. Solo from the Unione Siciliano and Miss Pussy Galore of The Cement Mixers in Harlem. Bond prepares ten copies of the agenda and gets dressed for the meeting.

Oddjob leads them down a hallway to the meeting room. Goldfinger sits at a large table with six places set with water glasses, scratchpads and pencils. At each place there is a small parcel wrapped in white paper. On one wall is a luxurious buffet with caviar and champagne. Bond and Masterton are shown to their seats. Masterton is told to take notes and not to engage in any conversation. She agrees. Goldfinger tells Bond that he is to watch closely the reaction of the six gang leaders as he presents his scheme, and to note by the name of each on the agenda whether Bond thinks they may wish to back out of it.

Bond asks about Pussy Galore. Goldfinger replies that she is the only female leader of an American gang. He will need some women as part of his scheme, he says. A buzzer goes off and the door opens. Five men walk in and take their seats at the table. Goldfinger tells them they will find a gold bar at their seats in the packages on the table, each worth \$15,000. He introduces them in turn to Bond and Masterton. Finally, Pussy Galore enters the room and walks slowly to her seat. Bond is immediately attracted to



her, partly because Goldfinger has told him she is a lesbian. Bond notes that Masterton is looking at her in a similar way.

Goldfinger addresses the group, telling them that they may not know him, but he is the mastermind behind several operations that they have probably heard of. The group is impressed by what they hear. They are further impressed when Goldfinger tells them that he has no criminal record and has never had one of his enterprises fail. He has their complete attention when he tells them that his present plan will clear each of them at least one billion dollars.

Hoods' Congress Analysis

Bond takes on his unlikely role as secretary to Goldfinger in this chapter and temporarily becomes a secondary character among the exaggerated personalities of the American gangsters. One of the challenges of using the point of view of one character throughout the novel is that the character has to be present during all the exposition and action. This chapter really belongs to Goldfinger, who gives out more information about himself and his criminal escapades in his monologue than Bond could ever hope to discover on his own. Bond's role at this point in the story is simply to sit and listen so that reader can learn these things, too.

The six American gangsters who Goldfinger wants to help him with his grand scheme are caricatures of hoodlums, with the possible exception of Pussy Galore, the beautiful but unreachable lady mobster who captivates both Bond and Masterton. Galore will turn out to have a softer side later in the story.



Crime de la Crime

Crime de la Crime Summary

The enormous figure of one billion dollars astounds the group. Mr. Solo asks Goldfinger what his cut will be, and Goldfinger replies that he will get five billion. Springer speaks up that there are only three places in the US that even hold that much in cash or bullion, the Federal Mint, the Federal Reserve Bank and Fort Knox. He sarcastically asks Goldfinger which one he will rob. Goldfinger responds that it is Fort Knox.

The group scoffs skeptically. Galore begins to get up to leave, but Goldfinger asks them all to hear him out. He begins to tell them all of the details of Fort Knox and the gold vault, including the number of people guarding it, the army units posted nearby, the roads and railroads surrounding it and the construction of the vault itself. The group is impressed by his knowledge and seems to believe that he may have a potentially successful idea. They ask to hear the plan.

Before telling them his plan, Goldfinger asks each of them to swear that they will not reveal the plan to anyone except those members of their gangs where it is necessary. They each give their word. Bond pays close attention to each of them as they do, and decides that Springer does not sound sincere. He notes this next to Springer's name on the agenda with a minus mark for Goldfinger to see.

With their assurances of confidentiality, Goldfinger begins to outline his plot. Each of them will arrange for a truck and driver to haul their share away. Goldfinger will use the railway. An airfield will also be available. On the day of the robbery, Goldfinger has arranged to poison the drinking supply of the fort and the surrounding area, which will knock out everyone on the base. Goldfinger and the rest of them will then pose as emergency personnel and enter the base.

Mr. Solo asks how the vault door will then be opened, and Goldfinger lifts a heavy carton onto the table. He says that only one weapon is strong enough to blow down the door, a nuclear warhead. The group goes pale. Bond asks himself what kind of trouble he has gotten himself into, and remembers the casual way in which he treated Goldfinger at their first meeting. He realizes that he had underestimated Goldfinger as a simple criminal like the many others he had caught. Now he realizes the odds are against him, but he must stop Goldfinger. He thinks of a comparison to the story of St. George and the Dragon, an English legend where a knight faces impossible odds yet kills a dangerous dragon. Bond is St. George.

Ring asks about fallout and the danger of being nearby when the bomb explodes. Goldfinger says they will be sheltered behind the armor of the surrounding wall of the depository. Some of the unconscious residents of the area may die, he says, but they will try to keep it to a minimum. With that, Goldfinger completes his presentation and asks each of the gangsters to tell him if he will join him or not.



Crime de la Crime Analysis

The extent of Goldfinger's mania for gold becomes clear in this chapter, and Bond's fear of him grows as he realizes the true nature of the maniac. As in the previous chapter, Bond is relegated to a secondary role here as Goldfinger takes the stage.

The story of St. George and the Dragon to which Bond alludes in his struggle against Goldfinger is part of the theme of service to England and the English ideal of fighting on in the face of insurmountable odds. St. George is a national symbol of England. By identifying himself with this legendary character, Bond is also saying that it is up to England to stop this madman in America.



Secret Appendix

Secret Appendix Summary

One by one, Goldfinger asks each gangster if he is in or out. Jed Midnight agrees enthusiastically. Billy Ring and Solo have small reservations, but are in. Helmut Springer says he is still considering, and asks that Goldfinger come back to him after the rest have answered. Bond has already sensed that Springer is against the plan. Jack Strap says he is in, as does Pussy Galore.

Goldfinger returns to Springer and asks if he has made up his mind. Springer gets to his feet and solemnly says he will decline to join. He thanks everyone with a short bow and lets himself out through the door. Bond sees Goldfinger reach beneath the table to send a signal to Oddjob outside the room.

The group stands and moves to the buffet. Bond stands near Masterton, but Pussy Galore moves between them to the delight of Masterton. Bond sees one of Goldfinger's staff come into the room and hurry over to whisper something to Goldfinger. Goldfinger stands and makes an announcement that Helmut Springer has had an unfortunate accident and has fallen down some stairs to his death. His bodyguard also fell down the same stairs. Goldfinger says the stairs have now been repaired. The gangsters agree among themselves that Springer had to be "hit."

That night, Bond thinks about the plan. After the meeting, he had met with Goldfinger to discuss some of the details. He had asked him about the poison that he would use in the water supply and Goldfinger had told him not to worry about it. Bond persists, and Goldfinger finally tells him that the poison will be a lethal nerve poison. Bond is aghast. Goldfinger means to kill the 60,000 people who live and work around Fort Knox.

Bond tells Goldfinger he is crazy to think he can get away with such a scheme. He cannot escape. Goldfinger tells him that a Soviet submarine will be visiting Norfolk, Virginia on the day of the robbery, and he and his gold will be transported to it to be taken back to the Soviet Union. Bond realizes that the plan must include killing him, as he is the only one who now knows that the Russians are behind the plot. The other gangsters will only assume that Goldfinger is another criminal like themselves. Bond realizes he is also the only man who can stop Goldfinger, but he cannot think how.

Bond and Masterton spend the following day working on paperwork surrounding the elaborate plan. Bond learns more about Masterton, who has become enamored of Pussy Galore and believes Galore will help her escape and watch after her. At the end of the day, Goldfinger sends Bond a note telling him that Bond will accompany him and the five gangsters on a plane trip to survey the scene of the robbery by air. Bond thinks about this for a moment, then goes to his typewriter. He quickly types out the complete details of the plot on a single sheet of paper and rolls it into a small cylinder. He wraps the cylinder in another piece of paper on which he has written a message that whoever



finds it and delivers it unopened to Felix Leiter at Pinkerton's Detective Agency in New York will be rewarded with \$5,000. He tapes the packet to the inside of his thigh.

Secret Appendix Analysis

Bond takes over the central role of the story once again as he develops the beginning of a scheme to stop Goldfinger. His fleeting love interest in Tilly Masterton, which began when he first saw her speed by him in her convertible in the French countryside, has now all but vanished in the face of her infatuation with Pussy Galore. Bond has some predictably conservative views about "sexual misfits" such as Tilly, whom he thinks are products of letting women vote and espousing sexual equality.

The involvement of Soviet Union on the plot is even deeper than Bond had imagined, and adds to the urgency he feels in his duty to stop Goldfinger. This is the first mention of Felix Leiter in this novel. Leiter is a recurring character in the Bond novels, and is something like Bond's American counterpart.



Journey into Holocaust

Journey into Holocaust Summary

Bond, Goldfinger and the five gangsters are in an airplane over Fort Knox. The hired pilot turns to Goldfinger and tells him that they are being asked if they have clearance. Goldfinger takes the microphone and pretends to be a movie producer scouting the place for an upcoming production. He lies that he has clearance from the Pentagon. This seems to satisfy the air controller for the time being.

Goldfinger answers some questions, then tells Oddjob to bring out some refreshments. Oddjob gets up and moves toward the back of the plane, and Bond gets up and follows him. While Oddjob watches him carefully, Bond enters the small lavatory at the back, closes the door and sits down.

He had not had a chance to drop his message on the way to the airport because Oddjob had watched him continuously. He knew he would be watched on the way back from the airport as well. He looks for a place to leave the note in the lavatory, and decides to put it under the toilet seat, hoping that it would be cleaned shortly after they returned to the airport and the note found. Oddjob rattles the handle to the door. Bond washes his hands and face and returns to his seat. Oddjob looks around in the lavatory, but finds nothing and shuts the door.

As the other passengers get up to use the lavatory, Bond sits nervously, imagining what will happen if one of them finds the note. Nobody does, however. The plane lands and they all return to the warehouse to continue planning the scheme. For the next several days, Bond is troubled wondering if his note has been discovered and if it has been delivered to Leiter. He imagines the plans that might be underway, but he cannot know. Finally, Bond receives a note from Goldfinger that the day has arrived for the plan to commence. They are to board a train at midnight.

Dressed as doctors and nurses, Goldfinger, Bond, Masterton and the gangsters board a special train at Pennsylvania Station in New York bound for the medical emergency that has suddenly struck the Fort Knox area. On board the train, Bond and Masterton are seated together while Goldfinger and the others talk cheerfully about their upcoming operation. Pussy Galore walks past Bond and Masterton, ignoring Tilly, but giving Bond a deep look. She stops and tells Bond that she has a feeling that there is something phony about him, and that she will be keeping an eye on him.

Once underway, the various gangs occupy their time refining their getaway plans. Bond marvels that the hundred crooks on board can manage to get along and coordinate with one another so well. He credits Goldfinger and his meticulous planning for pulling it off. Bond tries to sleep, but continually wonders if his message has gotten through. The superintendent at the train station had been aware of some kind of emergency, but Bond wonders if this is part of a cover story, or if Goldfinger has actually managed to



poison 60,000 people. Whatever happens, Bond tells himself, he will somehow get close to Goldfinger during the excitement of the robbery and kill him with one of the knives hidden in his shoe.

Journey into Holocaust Analysis

Bond is not in control of the situation, and it clearly bothers him. He wonders if he should have done things differently. He is desperate, and has taken a desperate chance in leaving his note, which he cannot be sure has been found and acted on.

In his desperation, Bond makes the decision that he must kill Goldfinger at any cost. He wonders if it will do any good, imagining that one of the others will step into Goldfinger's place. The robbery may still be successful, and perhaps tens of thousands of people were already killed. Killing Goldfinger would be not much more than vengeance, Bond thinks. This psychological insight into the character of Bond shows that he is thinking of the reasons for killing, and realizes that he sometimes feels like killing for personal revenge.



The Richest Man in History

The Richest Man in History Summary

As dawn breaks, the train pulls into the station at Louisville, Kentucky. Bond watches as Goldfinger converses with the station superintendent, shaking his head gravely at the news of the disaster. Goldfinger says he will ride in the lead engine with the engineer and fireman with a detection device. He has all the other railroad employees leave the train. Goldfinger asks everyone else to put on masks to protect from infection. The train departs.

A few minutes later, the train comes to a sudden stop, then starts up again. Bond realizes that Goldfinger has killed the engineer and fireman and has taken the controls of the train himself. Jack Strap moves through the train, telling everyone that there is ten minutes to go, and to get prepared. Bond gets up to use the lavatory, followed by Oddjob. Inside the lavatory, Bond removes one of the knives from his shoe and tucks it into his waistband. He returns to his seat.

As the train enters the base, Bond begins to see bodies of people who seem to have fallen dead suddenly. He sees many more bodies as they pull into the station, including children. Bond tells Masterton to stay away from him once the plan is underway because there may be shooting. She says she will stay close to Galore, who will protect her.

The train slowly stops along a siding near the bullion depository. The highly trained team springs into action as Bond, Masterton and the other leaders take their place on top of the engines to monitor the operation. Bond's job is to monitor and time the movements off the teams. All around lay the bodies of the soldiers who had been guarding the vault. After the first assault team clears the way, the bomb team prepares to bring in the bomb that will open the vault door. Bond, timing the operation with a stopwatch, tells Goldfinger that they are a minute ahead of schedule. Goldfinger gloats to Bond, saying that he was wrong to say that Goldfinger could not pull off the robbery. In ten minutes, he tells Bond, he will be the "richest man in history. (p. 287) Bond replies that he will wait ten minutes and see. Goldfinger calls to the others that the bomb will be detonating in five minutes, when they should take cover behind the engines.

From the corner of his eye, Bond sees something moving through the air. It is an explosive signal that shoots up and cracks in the sky. At the signal, the seemingly dead soldiers littering the landscape spring to life. A voice from nowhere commands everyone to stay where they are. A gun fires, and much more shooting follows.

Bond grabs Masterton and jumps with her from the top of the train engine. Goldfinger calls to Oddjob to kill them. As they run down the platform, Masterton tries to pull away from Bond, saying that Galore will protect her. Meanwhile, Bond can hear Oddjob coming up behind them. She pulls away from him and tries to duck into an open train



carriage door. Bond pulls out his knife and turns to meet Oddjob. Oddjob, from thirty feet away, takes off his hat, and while still running, flings it at Masterton. It strikes her in the back of the neck, and she falls dead.

Oddjob continues toward Bond and leaps at him. Bond ducks and jabs him in the ribs with his knife as he passes. Oddjob turns and strikes Bond on the shoulder, but then runs away up the platform at the sound of the train horn. Slowly the train begins to pull away. From out of the station, a dozen men run in, led by Felix Leiter, who is carrying a bazooka. Bond takes the enormous gun from him and aims it at the fleeing engine. Bond hits the rear engine, but the forward one still runs, and Goldfinger gets away.

Bond turns to Leiter and greets him. They go to the body of Masterton, and Bond laments that he could have saved her if she had followed him. Leiter directs his men to take her body inside and to notify the command center that they have located Bond. As Bond looks at Masterton's body, he remembers the pretty girl in the Triumph convertible.

The Richest Man in History Analysis

Goldfinger's grand scheme comes to its exciting conclusion as the novel reaches its climax in this chapter. Bond learns that his last desperate attempt to stop Goldfinger was at least partly successful. Goldfinger has apparently escaped with Oddjob.

The theme of death and responsibility is further explored in this chapter. Bond is horrified at what he assumes are dozens of dead people scattered all over the place. He paternally tries to protect Masterton from this horror by confirming that they are probably only sleeping, as Goldfinger had said they would be. When Masterton dies, Bond has another death to consider. This time, he lays the blame partly on Tilly herself, saying that if she had only stayed with him, she would have lived.

Bond does not blow his cover, even in the final minutes of the operation before the rescue begins. In the preparations leading up to the robbery, no mention is made of how Bond is to escape, and when Goldfinger says that they will say goodbye after the robbery is completed, it is confirmed that Goldfinger means to kill Bond and Masterton.



The Last Trick

The Last Trick Summary

It is two days later, and Leiter is driving Bond to the airport in his large sedan to catch a plane back to London. Bond asks Leiter if they have caught up with Goldfinger yet. Leiter tells him that they have not. Goldfinger, Galore and the other gangsters somehow vanished off the train. They know they did not make it to the Russian submarine and have not shown up at the warehouse in New York, or at the borders with Mexico or Canada. The President himself is very angry about it, Leiter tells Bond.

Bond has met the President the previous day, as he was shuttled around Washington as a hero. He has spoken by telephone with M, who confirmed that the telegram from Goldfinger to Universal Export had tipped them off. They raided his factories and uncovered his complete operation. Bond had been traced to Idlewild, but then lost. He tells Bond that Goldfinger had removed his twenty million dollars in gold from deposit in New York on the day of the robbery, and the Bank of England is worried about its whereabouts. This was being followed up on by the FBI and CIA, he tells Bond. He orders Bond to return to London.

Bond learns from Leiter that after he left his note on the airplane, it was two days until it was discovered, and the cleaner who found it had almost missed Leiter on his way out of town. Leiter had started working on the situation right away, and the President himself had overseen the plan.

Leiter drops Bond off at Idlewild Airport and the men say their goodbyes. While waiting for his flight, Bond hears his name announced over the loudspeaker, asking that he report to the ticket counter. Bond goes to the counter and is asked by the clerk to produce his health certificate. Bond hands it over. The clerk tells him that he will be required to get a vaccination for Typhoid before boarding the flight. Bond argues that he has already received several vaccinations and asks about the other passengers. The clerk tells him they are all getting their shots now. Bond shrugs and follows the clerk into a room where a doctor stands with a needle ready. Bond rolls up his sleeve and takes the shot, and then loses consciousness.

Bond wakes up on a plane, feeling nauseous. He is uncertain what has happened. He discovers his wrists are tied to the arms of his chair. Looking around he is astounded to see Oddjob dressed in the uniform of a flight attendant. Pussy Galore walks up behind him dressed as a stewardess. She greets him cheerfully and walks down the aisle. Goldfinger comes out of the cockpit of the plane in a captain's uniform and walks up to Bond.

Goldfinger is furious with Bond, and furious with himself for not having killed him earlier. He insists that Bond tell him how he communicated his plan to the authorities. Bond replies that he will tell him only if he unties him and brings him some bourbon and



cigarettes. Goldfinger agrees and tells Oddjob to unbind him, then take the seat in front of him to keep him from approaching the cockpit. Galore brings him the whiskey and cigarettes. As he drinks the last of his whiskey, he sees that Galore has written a note on the napkin under the glass. It says, "I'm with you." (p. 303) Bond puts the glass down and turns to Goldfinger, asking him where they are going and how he took control of the plane.

Goldfinger casually describes his actions after the ambush. He killed the four other mobsters, keeping Galore alive. He took his personal stash of gold and a small crew, including some pilots who are now flying the plane, to New York where he contacted SMERSH. When they heard Bond's name, they told Goldfinger that he is an agent of the Secret Service and instructed him to bring Bond to them if possible. He went to Idlewild, drugged the crew and passengers of the plane, loaded his gold onto it, and took off. The authorities are after the plane, Goldfinger says, but they will be at their destination in the Soviet Union before they can be tracked down.

Bond is no longer amazed at Goldfinger's criminal abilities, so is not surprised that he has managed to steal a gigantic airplane. Having completed his story, Goldfinger asks Bond to tell him how he got on to his trail and managed to get word out about the operation. Bond tells him, leaving out some of the crucial details. Finally, he gives Goldfinger a warning that he has crossed England and should not feel too safe, even inside Russia.

The Last Trick Analysis

For someone in the business of deception, Bond sometimes seems fairly easy to deceive. It is perhaps his trust of the British company BOAC that prevents him from suspecting anything is unusual and to accept an injection from a masked doctor. Bond's momentary lapse leads to another chance to match wits with Goldfinger. In this chapter, they meet as equals, with Goldfinger respecting Bond as a worthy opponent. In return, Bond recognizes that Goldfinger is a criminal genius. This honor between opponents is a common theme throughout literature, extending even into ancient times. Building up one's enemies as great and powerful, makes the vanquishing of those enemies even greater by comparison.

Bond now faces a fate perhaps worse than death, which is capture by the forces of SMERSH. Flying thousands of feet in the air and closely guarded by Oddjob, his situation once more seems impossible.



T.L.C Treatment

T.L.C Treatment Summary

As the plane flies north over the sea toward Canada, Bond eats a little food and drinks a fair amount of bourbon. Galore sneaks him a pencil in his dinner napkin. Bond looks around the plane and wonders how he might force it to land. He considers setting a fire, or forcing open the hatch. Both ideas seem like certain suicide. The idea of forcing open the hatch gives him an idea, however. Using the pencil Galore has given him, he writes on the napkin for her to fasten her seat belt.

Bond knows what he has to do. He prepares one of his hidden knives and in the reflection of the plane window watches Oddjob closely in the seat in front of him, looking for any sign that he might be going to sleep. Oddjob sits calmly in readiness. Bond pretends to fall asleep and starts snoring rhythmically hoping that it will lull Oddjob. Eventually he sees Oddjob nod his head and then rest it on his shoulder. Bond carefully reaches toward the window of the plane with his knife and jabs it into the center, creating a hole in the pressurized cabin.

Air begins to roar out through the hole and Bond watches as Oddjob is gradually sucked out through the small window, "as if the Korean's body was toothpaste." (p. 309) Bond manages to hold on as he plane begins to dive. He blacks out.

Bond awakens when he is kicked in the ribs. He looks up to find Goldfinger, holding a gun and preparing to kick him again. Bond grabs his foot and twists it, knocking Goldfinger to the floor. Goldfinger fires the gun, but Bond is able to take it away from him. Bond loses control and beats Goldfinger repeatedly. Goldfinger grabs Bond by the throat, and Bond does the same. The two men are locked in a mutual stranglehold. Bond is able to hold on longer, and Goldfinger's grip slackens as he dies.

Bond sees Galore strapped into her seat at the rear of the plane. One of the other guards is dead in the aisle. Bond finds Goldfinger's gun, moves to Galore and resuscitates her. He takes the gun from the guard's holster and goes to the cockpit, stopping on the way to take a shot of bourbon from a bottle rolling on the floor. Bond bursts into the cockpit and tells the crew that Goldfinger is dead and that he will shoot anyone who makes a move. He demands to know their location. The pilot tells them their location and speed. Bond tells the pilot to make for a weather ship at sea to make an emergency landing.

Bond contacts the weather ship by radio and tells them the situation. They plan to ditch the plane as close to the ship as possible. Bond warns the crew again and tells them to prepare for the water landing. Galore comes up to join Bond.

It is now two hours later, and Bond is relaxing comfortably in a cabin on the weather ship, listening to the radio. He and Galore had made their way to the back of the plane



to brace for the landing. When the plane hit, the great weight of the gold cargo had broken it in half and Bond and Galore were ejected out into the sea. The crew sank with the rest of the plane and the gold. Bond and Galore were rescued in lifeboats and were now both recuperating in adjoining cabins. Galore comes into Bond's cabin wearing only a long sweater. After a brief and provocative conversation, Bond takes her into his arms and kisses her.

T.L.C Treatment Analysis

The story reaches another climax in the final chapter with the violent showdown between Bond and Goldfinger. Despite all their posturing and attempts to manipulate one another over the course of the story, it comes down to the simplest of confrontations. Their last battle is a basic contest of strength and will, which Bond wins. The gruesome death of Oddjob seems fitting given the horrific brutality that he is supposed to have inflicted on Goldfinger's enemies.

Bond has "conquered" two of his nemeses by the end of the book, Goldfinger and Galore. Galore makes an apparent offer to help Bond escape while he is on the plane, but in the end Bond manages to bring down the plane himself. Even in the face of probably death, Bond is gallant. The final romantic scene is a recurring theme in the James Bond novels, suggesting that everything is back to normal with the secret agent while also implying that his work is the only thing that takes his attention from women, and vice versa.



Characters

James Bond

Agent 007 is in the British Secret Service, and the main character through which the story is told. He is one of the elite secret agents who hold the double-O status, which is a "license to kill." He is trained in lethal techniques of hand-to-hand combat, and is resourceful in fighting his way out of dangerous situations. He has simple, but very specific tastes, and moves easily through high society and the world of the very wealthy.

Bond is in his late 30's and is charming and very attractive to women. He seems to relish diving into unknown situations and surviving by his wits. He has an undeniable sense of duty to England and a preference for the English way of doing things with the exception of drinking tea. He prefers coffee.

Bond has a quiet, reflective side when he is not engaged in foiling international plots, and he is sometimes troubled by dark thoughts about having to kill as part of his duty. He himself is not afraid of death, as he demonstrates in the passage where he is being tortured by Goldfinger. Bond does not give up his cover even in the face of certain death.

Auric Goldfinger

A Latvian immigrant to England, Goldfinger becomes one of the richest men in the world by buying up gold and smuggling it out of the country. He is Bond's primary opponent in the novel. Goldfinger is a short, stocky man with a round head and flaming red hair cut in a crew cut. He is perpetually sunburned.

Goldfinger lives in a large mansion in England, and has another in Geneva, Switzerland. He also spends a good deal of time in the United States. He has gold stashed in depositories all over the world, which he moves around to follow the market for gold. He is obsessed with gold, and hatches a seemingly impossible plan to rob Fort Knox, one of the largest deposits of gold in the world.

Goldfinger is also connected to the Soviet anti-spy agency SMERSH, providing its agents with gold in payment for services and financing its international schemes to destabilize the West.

Tilly Masterton

The sister of Jill Masterton, Tilly was once Goldfinger's paid companion and was killed by Goldfinger for betraying him to Bond. Tilly Masterton, who initially gives her name to Bond as Tilly Soames, is trailing Goldfinger to Geneva to kill him in revenge for her sister. She and Bond are captured by Goldfinger and forced to take part in his plans.



Bond makes a few weak attempts to charm Tilly, but she seems more interested in the American criminal Pussy Galore. Tilly is eventually killed by Goldfinger's bodyguard Oddjob, while fleeing from the ambush at Fort Knox.

Pussy Galore

Galore is the leader of the "Cement Mixers," a gang of women based in Harlem, and one of the gangsters in on Goldfinger's plot to rob Fort Knox. Galore and her gang are the members of her former trapeze group. She is a fast-talking, tough woman. She is described as a lesbian who nevertheless seems to have an attraction to Bond. She escapes the Fort Knox ambush with Goldfinger and helps to kidnap Bond. She then offers to help him escape. She and Bond survive the crash of Goldfinger's stolen plane and become romantically involved at the end of the novel.

Jill Masterton

Goldfinger's paid companion while he is staying at the Floridiana Hotel in Florida, Jill Masterton is part of Goldfinger's scheme to cheat at cards. She spies on his opponent's cards from their hotel room with high-powered binoculars and transmits them by voice to Goldfinger's hearing aid receiver, allowing him to win. Masterton leaves Goldfinger temporarily to travel by train to New York with Bond. Despite Bond's warnings, she returns to Goldfinger, who kills her by painting her entire body in gold, suffocating her.

Oddjob

Goldfinger's Korean bodyguard, Oddjob is trained in the martial art of karate and can break bones with his bare hands and feet. Although large and stocky, he is also very agile and able to leap great distances. Oddjob wears a specially made bowler hat with a blade in the brim, which can be flung with lethal accuracy.

Junius Du Pont

A wealthy American tycoon who is acquainted with Bond from a trip to Europe, Du Pont asks Bond to help him catch a card thief who turns out to be Goldfinger.

M

M is the head of the British Secret Service and Bond's only superior. M decides what assignments Bond has, and provides him with the background information he needs.



Colonel Smithers

Smithers is the head of the research department for the Bank of England. Smithers and his department monitor the amount of gold in the country, and are the first to suspect Goldfinger's smuggling activities.

Alfred Blacking

The pleasant professional at the Royal St. Mark's golf course, Blacking once encouraged Bond to try to play golf professionally.

Hawker

Hawker is Bond's resourceful caddie when he plays against Goldfinger at the St. Mark's golf course. Hawker points out Goldfinger's cheating to Bond and helps him retaliate.

Foulkes

Foulkes is Goldfinger's caddie during the golf match with Bond. Goldfinger bribes Foulkes to help him cheat.

Helmut M. Springer

One of the gangsters invited to participate in Goldfinger's plot to rob Fort Knox, Springer is the leader of the "Purple Gang" of Detroit. He declines to participate in the scheme, and Goldfinger has him killed for it.

Jed Midnight

Midnight is the leader of the "Shadow Syndicate" and one of the gangsters who takes part in the Fort Knox job.

Billy Ring

Ring is also called "The Grinner" because of his misshapen mouth. He is a gangster who is in on the Fort Knox plot with Goldfinger. Ring is the leader of "The Machine" in Chicago.

Mr. Solo

The head of the "Unione Siciliano," Solo is a mobster involved in the Fort Knox caper.



Jack Strap

Strap is the leader of the "Spangled Mob" based in Las Vegas, and one of Goldfinger's accomplices in the Fort Knox job. Strap is a wisecracking, cigar-chewing, western type.

Felix Leiter

Leiter is an American private investigator who has helped Bond in the past. While in the captivity of Goldfinger, Bond leaves a message behind on an airplane in the hopes that it will be delivered to Leiter. Leiter gets the message and foils Goldfinger's plot to rob Fort Knox.



Objects/Places

British Secret Service

BSS is the external branch of the British intelligence service that covers foreign espionage. Fleming uses a fictionalized version of the service as the employer of the dashing James Bond. The leader of the actual British Secret Service is often called C for short, which is the inspiration for naming M in the Bond novels.

SMERSH

SMERSH is the brutal Soviet-led anti spy network for which Goldfinger provides financial backing. SMERSH is short for the Russian phrase "Smiert Spionam" which translates as "Death to Spies" and is the motto of the organization.

D.B.III

D.B. III is the model of Aston Martin sports car built in England. Bond's D.B. III has had special modifications, including changeable headlights, reinforced bumpers for ramming, a hidden gun compartment, a homing beacon receiver and several hidden compartments.

Walther PPK

The Walther is a small German-made police pistol and Bond's preferred side arm.

Silver Ghost

The Silver Ghost is the luxurious and expensive automobile manufactured by Rolls Royce in England. Goldfinger drives a bright yellow Silver Ghost that has been specially fitted with armored plates. He removes the plates and replaces them with panels of gold in order to smuggle the gold out of England.

BOAC

British Overseas Airways Corporation is a former international airline based in Britain. Goldfinger steals a BOAC aircraft to flee America after escaping the ambush at Fort Knox.



The Grange

The Grange is the large house in Reculver, England, where Goldfinger lives and has a metallurgy factory.

Royal St. Mark's

St. Mark's is the golf club near Sandwich where Bond and Goldfinger meet for the second time and play a round of golf. The course is a fictional version of the Royal St George's club, which actually exists there.

Air Ferry

The Air Ferry is the plane that carries both passengers and their cars. Goldfinger takes an air ferry twice a year between England and France.

Bank of England

The Bank of England is the central bank of the British government in charge of implementing monetary policy. In the novel, the Bank of England asks the British Secret Service for help in catching Goldfinger and stopping his gold smuggling, which could undermine the value of British currency. The bank is located on Threadneedle Street in London, and is sometimes called the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, as Bond does.

Pinkerton

Pinkerton is an American private investigation firm.

Fort Knox

Fort Knox is an army base near Elizabethtown, Kentucky that houses the United States Bullion Depository where the U.S. stores its supply of gold. The security measures of Fort Knox are legendary, making Goldfinger's plot to rob it seem impossible.



Social Sensitivity

In *Goldfinger*, James Bond uncovers a plot to deplete the Western world's gold reserves. He and the British Secret Service are tipped off by the Bank of England, which has become alarmed by the smuggling of large quantities of gold out of Britain. In 1959, Great Britain and many other countries were on the "gold standard," meaning the value of their paper money rested on their ability to back it with gold. Although most nations abandoned the gold standard in the 1960s and 1970s, *Goldfinger*'s spectacular effort to loot Fort Knox still seems sufficiently menacing to maintain the novel's excitement.

In Ian Fleming's fictional world, the communist nations and the Free World are locked in a secret war. The Soviet Union represents the forces of darkness. In *Goldfinger*, the Soviet Union's secret organization of assassins, SMERSH, not only ruthlessly tortures and murders individual people who get in its way, but it actually tries to murder "the entire population of Fort Knox," over sixty thousand people.

"You're mad!" exclaims James Bond when he hears of this scheme. "Why not?" says *Goldfinger*. "American motorists do it every year." The conflict of the novel is an elemental one for Bond: "This was Russia versus America with *Goldfinger* as the spearhead."



Techniques

There is never any doubt that Bond will triumph in *Goldfinger*; the only question is the degree of his victory. In some other tales, he thwarts the schemes of the chief villain, such as 1732 Ernst Blofeld, but the villain himself escapes. The attraction of a James Bond story is not suspense. Instead, it is twofold: the contest between characters and the anticipation of thrills to come.

Goldfinger is an elaborate working out of the battle between the well-matched pair of hero and villain. The golf match between Bond and *Goldfinger* in chapters 8 and 9 illustrates their battle of wits. The pleasure for the reader is in watching the two skilled players compete. Anticipation is created in two ways. The first is by showing *Goldfinger's* remarkable imagination. The archvillain is capable of creating surprising and elaborate schemes. Each step of the novel reveals more about his crimes; each is a new thrill and a challenge for Bond. *Goldfinger's* love of criminal enterprise promises that better crimes are yet to come. The second way of building anticipation is through the demonstration of Oddjob's deadly skills in chapter 11. Eventually, Bond must fight Oddjob, a seemingly unbeatable killing machine. This adds more excitement to the conflict between Bond and *Goldfinger*, because Oddjob's stolid figure is always present.



Themes

Cold War Tension

Following World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union, who had been allies during the war, emerged as the two major world superpowers. The two nations eventually became enemies over the conflicting ideologies of Communism and Capitalism and began a decade's long conflict known as the Cold War, because it never erupted into open fighting between the two countries. Instead, the war was fought by proxy in places like Korea and Viet Nam, and also covertly as spies from both sides tried to discover each other's secrets.

In the setting of the 1950's when "Goldfinger" was first published, the fictional Soviet anti-spy organization SMERSH would have seemed a natural adversary for Bond's English spy character. During the Cold War, the Soviets were often portrayed in popular Western culture as cold, ruthless and brutal, but also very intelligent and cunning. All of these features are personified in the figure of Goldfinger himself, who has spent his entire life, Bond theorizes, working on his present plot to undermine the Western economy by smuggling and hoarding gold.

At the climactic end of the novel, Goldfinger kidnaps Bond and tells him he will be turned over to Moscow. This would be the ultimate end of James Bond, as it is implied they would undoubtedly use unimaginable methods to extract information from him before killing him. It is implied that in the face of helping the Soviets, even the hardened criminal Pussy Galore will fight for the right side when she offers to help Bond escape.

Service to England and the Superiority of the British Way

It is a popular ideal among the English that its citizens owe a debt of service to their country. This ideal is threaded through the novel and provides an underlying motivation for James Bond and his actions. All the truly upright characters in the novel are completely British and quietly uphold this ideal. This ideal of service even extends in Bond's case to killing.

The reason that Bond is put on the case to stop Goldfinger is explained by Colonel Smithers as being directly connected to the British economy. Goldfinger is taking "English" gold out of the country, which will not only affect the English economy, but its influence in the international economy. The duty to prevent this falls on Bond and his superiors at the Secret Service, as well as on other venerable British types such as Colonel Smithers of the Bank of England.

The only truly British characters are presented as being upright, including of course Bond, who, despite his occasional lie or cheat, is ultimately serving England in his



actions. Other solid British characters include M, Colonel Smithers, Blacking the golf pro and Hawker, Bond's caddie. While Goldfinger is described as an "Englishman," he is originally from Latvia, having come to England as a young adult. In addition, Goldfinger is described as being a little "too" English, with his pretentious, dank old house and extravagant British automobile. Understated calm in the face of danger and suffering is the English Way, and Bond personifies this. Goldfinger attempts to hold up this facade, but Bond senses the energy and brutality behind his English exterior.

Fleming does include some honorable American characters in the novel as well, but they are mainly presented as being somewhat flawed. Bond is put off by the overstated excesses of the wealthy Junius Du Pont, for instance, preferring his simple but refined pleasures. Pussy Galore is a hardened criminal who finds redemption mainly through her irresistible attraction for Bond. Felix Leiter, the Pinkerton man who has Bond's respect, is a hero in the American mold who comes whooping in with guns blazing to save the day.

Underneath all of this is the implication that ultimately, sometimes service to England requires killing those who would harm it. Bond is one of the elite few to whom this "license to kill" has been granted, and the duty sometimes lays heavy on him. Nevertheless, it is this sense of duty and service to his country that separates Bond from other hired killers such as Oddjob, who seem to kill for pleasure.

Death, Remorse and Responsibility

The novel opens with Bond ruminating over his recent killing of a man involved with a heroin smuggling ring. The man intended to kill Bond, so it is implied that he was justified in responding with lethal force. Nevertheless, Bond seems troubled. He is expected to kill in the line of duty, and is absolved from any legal repercussions, yet he has to face the moral repercussions. Bond reflects on the nature of death and how fragile life is as he replays the scene of the attack of the Mexican drug smuggler in his mind. He begins to think of how the man was an individual one moment, with a name and an existence, and then in an instant had crumpled into nothing.

Bond does not delve too deeply into these matters, and indeed the character seems unable to do so, opting to try to get drunk in order to forget the memories for a while. This death, while caused directly by Bond, is not presented as being his responsibility, really, as the man he killed was a criminal who was trying to kill him. A more complex situation arises later in the story however, with the death of Jill Masterton.

Masterton is killed by Goldfinger in a horrible way in retaliation for betraying him to Bond. When Bond learns this from Jill's sister Tilly, he feels remorse because he feels responsible for her death. He thinks he could have done more to prevent her from returning to Goldfinger. In a way, Jill Masterton was killed as a substitute for Bond, just as Goldfinger allows Oddjob to kill the cat that Bond uses to cover his discovery of Goldfinger's surveillance system. Tilly, Jill's sister becomes tangled in Bond's plot to



bring down Goldfinger and is finally killed because of it. As Bond escapes with his own life, others are killed in his wake.

Ultimately, Bond kills both Oddjob and Goldfinger in the plane over the sea. As he and Goldfinger have each other in a stranglehold, they seem to be evenly matched, just as they were on the golf course. Bond narrowly overcomes Goldfinger in the end. Despite the dramatic surroundings, this killing is the simplest of all. Each man wants the other dead. They are evenly matched, with neither having a real advantage over the other. The victor is simply the stronger of the two, which is of course Bond.

Significant Topics

Goldfinger has a complex interweaving of themes. The most important of these is wealth. SMERSH and its agent Goldfinger attack the wealth of nations. The smuggling and the assault on Fort Knox are meant to undermine Western economies and to bolster SMERSH's own schemes. "The Russians were notoriously incompetent payers of their own men," Bond notes. Goldfinger's smuggling provides revenue for paying SMERSH's assassins. Bond's own attitude toward wealth is primarily a clinical one; he has learned to recognize wealthy people by their mannerisms. When he blackmails \$10,000 from Goldfinger, he gives the money to Jill Masterton because he likes her. Later, after winning another \$10,000 from Goldfinger in a game of golf, he gives the money to the White Cross, the British Secret Service's widows and orphans fund. Goldfinger's attitude is the opposite of Bond's. Acquisitiveness is a mania for Goldfinger, and wealth is his tool for fulfilling his and SMERSH's desires.

Wealth opens doors: country clubs and businesses welcome Goldfinger.

He bribes officials with gold. Bond is a jarring element in Goldfinger's world of snobbery and greed, and he represents another important theme: courage. Bond's courage stands against the cruelty of Goldfinger and his allies.

Torture is a matter of routine for Goldfinger, but Bond's attempt to will himself to die before revealing anything that would harm others confounds Goldfinger's effort to brutalize agent 007 into betraying his confidences.

Indeed, Goldfinger, who knows only greed and cruelty, fails to unlock the secrets of Bond's motivations until too late; he assumes that Bond, like others of his dark underworld, is motivated primarily by selfishness and lust.



Style

Point of View

The novel is told in the third person with insight into James Bond's internal thoughts and motivations. The facts of the story are learned by the reader as the character Bond learns them, and the events unfold as he experiences them. This is one effective way to build suspense and tension in the story as Bond uncovers the real nature of his opponents and their criminal plot. It is a different approach than the kind of suspense that is created in a book from an omniscient point of view, where the reader may be aware of a danger that the main character is not. Making Bond the center of the narrative allows Fleming to surprise his reader with plot twists and sudden changes.

This point of view works best for a character like Bond, who actually thrives on danger, and dives in headfirst to situations that may kill him. One shortcoming of employing this point of view, however, is that all the supporting background information must be presented to the reader through the main character. For the reader to learn the back-story of Auric Goldfinger, for instance, James Bond must sit through a briefing with Colonel Smithers of the Bank of England where Smithers gives him the information. Relying on dialog to provide this kind of crucial information can slow down the pace of the story considerably.

Similarly, any supporting events that take place outside the knowledge of the main character must be introduced as they are made known to the character, and cannot be described as they happen in the course of the story. The elaborate plan of the American government to stop Goldfinger at Fort Knox is only described after the ambush is over. Because Bond is not present during the planning to know about it, neither is the reader.

Setting

The novel is set primarily in the United States, with sections taking place in England, France, Switzerland and Canada. The story opens with James Bond in Miami, Florida on his way back to England. He is detained for a time in Florida, then makes his way by train to New York City to fly back to London, England.

In London, Bond spends time working the overnight shift at the headquarters of the Secret Service. The headquarters is described as a place where many people are working long hours at all times of day and night. Bond also attends a meeting with an official of Bank of England in the luxurious surroundings of the bank. When he is dispatched to find out more on Goldfinger, Bond drives to the seaside resort village of Reculver where he plays a round of golf with Goldfinger at the St. Mark golf club, and where Goldfinger has a mansion and metal factory.

Trailing Goldfinger by air and then automobile, Bond travels across the English Channel to France. From there, he tracks Goldfinger to Geneva, Switzerland, where he has



another factory and home. After being tortured by Goldfinger in Geneva, Bond is taken back to New York City as a captive, where he stays while Goldfinger plans his heist of Fort Knox. On the day of the robbery, the scene moves to the fort itself, located in Kentucky.

After Goldfinger's plot is foiled, Bond returns again to New York to fly back to England. He is captured once more by Goldfinger, however, and is being flown to Moscow to be turned over to the Soviets when he forces the plane down over the sea off the coast of Canada, where the novel ends.

The rapidly changing setting of the story is in keeping with the image of a globetrotting international spy like James Bond. Fleming takes great care to describe the settings authentically and in detail. The descriptions of the holes at the St. Mark golf course are finely detailed, as are the surroundings of Fort Knox. The detailed descriptions inform and entertain, allowing the reader to become immersed in the surroundings of the story.

Language and Meaning

Ian Fleming was a British writer, and his writing includes several British idioms and expressions. Much of "Goldfinger" takes place in America, however, and Fleming's approximation of American speech may seem exaggerated to native speakers of American English. The straight-speaking Junius Du Pont and the wisecracking gangsters in Goldfinger's crew almost seem like caricatures of American types.

Much of Fleming's dialog between characters hides a second meaning as the characters pretend to have a discussion over something they both know to be false. An example is the conversation between Du Pont and Bond about Bond's work at Universal Exports, the phony company that Bond uses for a cover story. Du Pont knows that Bond is actually some kind of spy and Bond knows that he knows it, yet they engage in a short conversation as if Bond's cover story were true. Another instance is when Goldfinger deliberately leaves Bond alone in his mansion for half an hour, then returns with a false story about where he has been, which, although he knows Bond must know it is a lie, he expects Bond to simply agree with.

It is as if these conversations take place with a "wink" between the characters, which points to the possibility that Fleming himself is sometimes "winking" at his readers as if they both know better, but will keep up the pretense for now. This kind of dialog and writing is in keeping with the genre of the spy novel, where people are not what they seem, and some have inside information.

Structure

The novel is divided into 23 short chapters in three parts called "Happenstance," "Coincidence," and "Enemy Action." The names of these parts correspond to a saying that Goldfinger repeats to Bond referring to how their paths have crossed three times, "Once is happenstance. Twice is a coincidence. The third time it's enemy action." (p.



204) The three parts correspond with these three meetings between Bond and Goldfinger.

The novel begins with a short entertaining episode where Bond gets the better of Goldfinger and makes off with his beautiful secretary. From there the action slows down dramatically as the background is established for Bond's continued investigation into Goldfinger's suspected smuggling operation. This exposition is done through somewhat lengthy monologues by M, the head of the Secret Service and Colonel Smithers, an official at the Bank of England. Their instructions to Bond are vague. He is simply to get closer to Goldfinger and find out what he can. This leads to another long episode, the second encounter between Bond and Goldfinger over a game of golf. Fleming describes the golf game in minute detail, down to the conditions of the course and the clubs the characters are using. While possibly an enjoyable passage to many of his target readers, the two-chapter-long golf game slows the action considerably.

Once Bond meets with Goldfinger the third time, the action begins to pick up. Several colorful characters are introduced, including a possible love interest for Bond. The pace quickens as the daring robbery proceeds and Bond finally gets his man, as well as his woman.



Quotes

"It was part of his profession to kill people. He had never liked doing it and when he had to kill he did it as well as he knew how and forgot about it. As a secret agent who held the rare double-O prefix - the licence to kill in the Secret Service - it was his duty to be as cool about death as a surgeon." p. 9

"Bond's first view of Mr. Goldfinger was startling. At the far corner of the roof, just below the cliff of the hotel, a man was lying on his back with his legs up on a steamer chair. He was wearing nothing but a yellow satin bikini slip, dark glasses and a pair of wide tin wings under his chin." p. 35

"Goldfinger stopped in mid-stride. now his eyes looked up at the balcony. They had opened wide, as when Bond had first met him. Their hard, level, X-ray gaze seemed to find the lenses of the binoculars, travel down them and through Bond's eyes to the back of his skull. They seemed to say, 'I shall remember this, Mr. Bond.'" p. 55

"Fear, Mr. Bond, takes gold out of circulation and hoards it against the evil day. In a period of history when every tomorrow may be the evil day, it is fair enough to say that a fat proportion of the gold that is dug out of one corner of the earth is at once buried again in another." p. 73

"Bond walked slowly out, preparing his mind for the game. On purpose he had needled this man into a high, tough match so that Goldfinger's respect for him should be increased and Goldfinger's view of Bond - that he was the type of ruthless, hard adventurer who might be very useful to Goldfinger - would be confirmed." p. 103

"There are some rich men who use their riches like a club. Bond, luxuriating in his bath, thought that Goldfinger was one of them. He was the kind of man who thought he could flatten the world with his money, bludgeoning aside annoyances and opposition with his heavy wad." p. 132

"Impassively the Korean lifted his right hand high and straight above his head and brought the side of it down like an axe across the heavy polished rail. There was a splintering crash and the rail sagged, broken through the centre." p. 149

"Bond said amiably, 'If you touch me there again you'll have to marry me.'
The words were hardly out of his mouth before the open palm cracked across his face. Bond put up a hand and rubbed his cheek." p. 178

"We are going to burgle fifteen billion dollars' worth of gold bullion, approximately half the supply of mined gold in the world. We are going, Mr. Bond, to take Fort Knox." p. 227

"Death! Dead people everywhere. No movement, no sound save the click of the murderer's iron feet as his train slid through the graveyard." p. 283



"He stood and looked grimly down at Bond. 'Well, Mr. Bond. So Fate wished us to play the game out. But this time, Mr. Bond, there cannot possibly be a card up your sleeve. Ha!' The sharp bark was a mixture of anger, stoicism and respect. 'You certainly turned out to be a snake in my pastures.'" p. 302

"There was a smell of fright-sweat and cigarette smoke. Bond stood with his legs braced, the guns held unwavering. He said, 'Goldfinger's dead. If anyone moves or disobeys an order I shall kill him. Pilot, what's your position, course, height and speed?'" p. 312

Adaptations

Probably the most popular of the James Bond motion pictures is *Goldfinger*, produced by Albert R. Broccoli and Harry Saltzman for United Artists and released in 1964. As *Goldfinger*, actor Gert Frobe deserves much of the credit for the film's success. His bravura performance conveys the fascination of *Goldfinger*'s mania for gold. In the motion picture, *Goldfinger* is not an agent for SMERSH. Instead, he is a millionaire driven by lust for gold and allied with the Communist Chinese, who in 1964 were regarded by Americans as more menacing than the Russians. The screenplay by Richard Maibaum and Paul Dehn kept most of the novel's plot intact, with the only jarring note being the pointless gathering of gangster chieftains only to explain the scheme against Fort Knox and then to have them killed. Their scene does not fit into the movie's plot. *Pussy Galore* is played by Honor Blackman and is transformed into an airplane pilot. Sean Connery plays James Bond, as he has in six of the early films of the Bond series and in *Never Say Never Again*, released in 1985. Guy Hamilton's direction is crisp and the action scenes are seamless. One good change is the substitution of a laser beam for the trite buzz saw in the torture scene.

For a discussion of films of other Bond adventures, see the biographical entry on Ian Fleming.



Topics for Discussion

How does James Bond justify killing? Is Bond immoral?

"Goldfinger" contains many racial, sexual and national stereotypes. How does this affect your reading of the book? What does it tell you about the time in which the book was written?

Fleming frequently uses specific names when describing the objects in the book, for instance the model of Bond's car, the make of his pistol, and the vintage of wine he drinks at dinner. Why do you think he does this? How does it contribute to the development of Bond as a character?

What role do women play in Bond's world?

What is Fleming's intended audience for "Goldfinger?" How does he try to appeal to that audience?

Compare and contrast the characters of Oddjob and James Bond.

Is Bond responsible for the death of Jill Masterton? Why or why not? What about the death of Tilly Masterton?



Literary Precedents

Goldfinger is part mystery and part adventure. Like most protagonists in mystery stories, Bond owes some of his characterization to Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. Like Holmes, Bond is a student of criminality.

Whereas Holmes focused on criminality in general, Bond focuses on international espionage. Holmes was self-absorbed and shy of women; Bond is gregarious and loves the company of women. In addition, Holmes was a coldly calculating detective. Physically courageous and daring when need be, he had clear objectives in mind when he acted. Bond is exceptionally intelligent and able to figure out the complicated plots of his enemies, but his method of research is often to rush into danger and see what he can stir up.

Critics often compare the James Bond adventures to medieval myths, such as those about knights saving maidens from dragons. They suggest that Bond is a twentieth-century knight errant, saving Pussy Galore and others from terrible dragons, such as Goldfinger. If this is so, then Bond is an ineffectual knight. He fails to protect Jill Masterton, who is painted to death, and her sister Tilly is dispatched by Oddjob's bowler. However, the comparison does have some merit. Like a knight errant, Bond travels far and wide through exotic locales, and he is usually on a quest. Like King Arthur, "M," the head of the British Secret Service, summons Bond to the throne room-office and sends the daring knight on a one-man mission for the sake of his country.

Related Titles

The stories of James Bond in the main share the qualities of exotic settings and thrilling action. Bond nearly always beds a woman or two, in scenes that used to scandalize readers but now seem modest. Bond jokes a little, is tortured a little, and drinks a lot.

Other James Bond titles include *Casino Royale*, 1953, novel (also published as *You Asked for It*); *Live and Let Die*, 1954; *Moonraker*, 1955, novel (also published as *Too Hot to Handle*); *Diamonds Are Forever*, 1956; *From Russia with Love*, 1957; *Doctor No*, 1958; *For Your Eyes Only: Five Secret Exploits of James Bond*, 1960, short stories; *Thunderball*, 1961; *The Spy Who Loved Me*, 1962; *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, 1963; *You Only Live Twice*, 1964; *The Man with the Golden Gun*, 1965; and *Octopussy: The Last Great Adventures of James Bond 007*, 1967, short stories.



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