

Moonraker Study Guide

Moonraker by Ian Fleming

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Plot Summary

Millionaire Hugo Drax cheats at cards, the highest offense in polite English society. Special Agent James Bond is brought in to put Drax in his place, and Bond humiliates him in a tense game of bridge. After the game, Drax warns him that he had better spend his winnings quickly. Bond finds this comment suspicious but does not dwell on it at the time. Shortly after, Bond meets Drax again as he is assigned to work security at Drax's Moonraker facility where he is building a world class rocket that will be capable of carrying an atomic bomb to any city in Europe. Bond senses something suspicious but can find no evidence of contravention. The day before the launch of the Moonraker, Bond, with the assistance of police officer Gala Brand, discovers that Drax is actually a German agent working for the Soviets. He is planning on sending the Moonraker into the center of London and detonating an atomic bomb. Before they can warn anyone, Bond and Brand are captured and held captive. There are just hours to go before the plan is enacted, and Bond has to find some way to escape and stop the madman.

Sir Hugo Drax seems to be a shining example of everything Britain can achieve. Following World War II, he is a soldier suffering from amnesia, with no idea who he is. The army doctors suspect he is an orphan named Hugo Drax, and he takes on this identity. Following the war, he makes millions in businesses abroad and then returns to England to spend his fortune. He donates to many worthy causes around the country and wins the love of the British public. During the cold war, he pledges to fund and create the Moonraker rocket, an enormous missile capable of delivering an atomic bomb to any city in Europe. Following a suspicious murder suicide at the Moonraker facility, Secret Agent James Bond is brought in to secretly observe the happenings the days before the first launch of the missile.

Bond is working with a police officer from Scotland Yard, the beautiful Gala Brand. Brand is also undercover as Drax's secretary at the Moonraker facility. Drax has brought in a team made up entirely of Germans to build the missile, all of whom Bond finds suspicious but cannot find anything solid to prove they are doing anything illegal. The day before the launch of the Moonraker, Bond and Brand are walking together on the beach when someone tries to kill them. They quickly realize it has to be someone working on the Moonraker but cannot tie it to Drax. As Brand is covertly spying on Drax, she discovers his true plans. He has secretly programmed the Moonraker to deliver an atomic bomb into the center of London. Before she can warn anyone of her discovery, she is caught and held captive.

Bond is trying to rescue Brand but is subsequently captured himself. As Bond and Brand are tied up together, Drax tells them his story. He is not a Briton but a German. He took on the identity of Drax after the war and has been planning on extracting revenge on England for their part in humiliating Germany and himself during the war. He has been working with Russia to build the atomic bomb, and the German engineers are actually his former subordinates in the German army. They will all be escaping after the launch of the Moonraker. Drax leaves Bond and Brand alone, telling them they will be killed by the backfire of the rocket during the launching.



Before the launch, Bond and Brand manage to escape and hide in the Moonraker facility. With no time to spare before the destruction of London, Bond redirects the missile out to sea where it hits a Russian submarine carrying Drax and his team. Once London is saved, Bond is looking forward to starting a relationship with Brand. However, he is saddened when she rejects him due to her previous engagement to another man. Bond is faced with the success of the mission but the loss of the girl he has fallen for.



Part One - Monday, Chapter 1 - Secret Paper-Work

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The novel opens in a shooting range below the British Secret Service building in London. Secret Agent James Bond is having a shooting lesson. He does well, but his target is not perfect so he is not satisfied with himself. When he leaves the shooting range, the instructor thinks to himself that Bond is the best shot in the service.

Bond goes up to his office overlooking Regent's Park. He chats with his secretary, Loelia Ponsonby, joking with her and moving on to his desk. He sits down and begins doing paperwork. He is thinking to himself about his current situation. He only has about three assignments per year and the other time he works in the office, reading reports. This work is normally dull and boring for Bond. Bond is quickly bored reading the reports and thinks ahead to the weekend. He spends his free time playing golf, gambling and driving his Bentley. He spends nearly all of his two thousand pounds a year salary on these pursuits, not worrying about savings as he expects to be killed in action before he is forty-five. When he is not on assignments, his days are very boring. As he is daydreaming, he suddenly he gets a call on the red phone on his desk indicating a call from his boss, M. Bond is requested in M's office, and he immediately heads upstairs, wondering if this will be the start of a new job.



Part One - Monday, Chapter 1 - Secret Paper-Work Analysis

Bond's life tilts between the very exciting and the very boring. While he is on assignment, he works in exotic foreign countries and has an unlimited expense account. When he is not there, however, he is forced to live a very opposite life. He is an average office worker working a normal shift doing the same thing everyday.

Bond's job in London is also very safe, while his job's abroad on assignment are very dangerous. The two other men working in the office are out in the field. One of them has been seriously injured. Bond also expects to die before he turns forty-five, suggesting his job is very dangerous in deed. The phone call from M at the end of the chapter is clear foreshadowing that he about to receive another assignment, making his life exciting again.



Part One - Monday, Chapter 2 - 'Belly Strippers', etc.; Chapter 3 - The Columbite King

Part One - Monday, Chapter 2 - 'Belly Strippers', etc.; Chapter 3 - The Columbite King Summary

Bond is meeting privately with M, and he is surprised to see that M seems embarrassed about what he is going to say. Bond has never seen M this way and the air is uncomfortable. Finally, M comes out and says he needs to ask Bond for a personal favor. Before he asks the favor, M asks Bond what he knows about a man named Hugo Drax.

Bond proceeds to tell him everything he knows about Drax. Drax is a multimillionaire and a national hero. During World War II, he was stationed at a headquarters that was bombed by the Germans. In the attack he is seriously injured and suffering from amnesia. After a year, he claims to still not know who he is. Finally the war office determines that he is probably an orphan named Hugo Drax. He matched the description of Drax and one of the men from his unit confirmed it. Drax takes on Drax's identity but says he still does not remember anything from the past.

Drax goes on to make millions in business. He bought large amounts of a valuable ore called Columbite. The ore is significant because it has a very high melting point and there is very little of it in the world. Drax starts his business in Tangiers and bets heavily on commodities. His bets seem to always win and by 1950, he is a multimillionaire. He comes back to London and starts spending his money. Drax is very generous donating to many worthy causes around England. He soon becomes hugely popular and is knighted by the Queen. Drax gives England his entire holding of Columbite and pledges to build a super atomic rocket that will be able to reach any capital in Europe. He will pay ten million pounds to fund the project. The rocket will be called "The Moonraker."

M is a personal friend of Drax as they both belong to the same exclusive gambling club, Blades. M finally asks Bond for his favor. He says everything Bond has said about Drax is correct. Drax is a public hero. However, one thing seems odd to M. Drax cheats at cards.

Part One - Monday, Chapter 2 - 'Belly Strippers', etc.; Chapter 3 - The Columbite King Analysis

The fact that Drax had amnesia and his identity is never confirmed beyond doubt is suspicious. This may be foreshadowing that he is not Drax but someone else. The



description of Drax as such a wonderful person is also suspicious as such a great person often has something to hide. Combine this with the information that he cheats at cards, and it seems Drax may well be the antagonist of the novel.

This chapter also reveals some of the personality of M. He is a very serious man and is uncomfortable using Bond for personal business. He decides to do so anyway probably because it peripherally concerns government business. Drax is working closely with the government to build the Moonraker rocket, and it would make sense to check up on him.

Bond has a history of being an excellent gambler, as was seen in the previous Bond novel, *Casino Royale*.

Cheating at cards would be the height of impropriety in the high society of London. In the 1950's, the old boys club is very real. The men who would belong to a club like Blades would consider themselves gentlemen, and could never even consider cheating. Being caught cheating at cards would be highly embarrassing not only for the cheater but for the men forced to confront him for it.

It would be disastrous for a national hero like Drax to be publicly disgraced. Since he is so important for national pride and because of his involvement with the Moonraker, it is advantageous to keep the cheating quiet.



Part One - Monday, Chapter 4 - The 'Shiner'; Chapter 5 - Dinner at Blades

Part One - Monday, Chapter 4 - The 'Shiner'; Chapter 5 - Dinner at Blades Summary

M goes on to explain that it is odd that a multimillionaire would cheat at cards. In British high society, it is the only crime that can still finish you off. M says Drax has not been caught but is suspected by the Chairman of Blades, Basildon. If Drax is accused and caught cheating, he would be forced to resign. This would seriously injure his image and the pride of Britain. M wants to prevent this humiliation so he wants Bond, the best card player in the service, to help detect Drax's cheating method and beat him.

Drax only plays bridge, and M says he is not a particularly good player, but he hasn't had a loss in over a year. He normally plays with the same person, his metal broker, Meyer. Bond has some ideas about how Drax may be cheating and thinks he may be able to tell if he watches him. Bond and M make plans to meet at the Blades club that night for dinner. Bond goes home and prepares for the night, reviewing popular card cheating methods and practicing his shuffling techniques. When he is ready, he showers and drives to the club.

Bond arrives at Blades is taken to M. The men have a drink and play a game of piquet in which Bond beats M. The men then head down to the large game room to check on Drax. M tells Bond to keep an eye on the man and to signal M if he notices anything. Bond is introduced around the room and settles in to a corner to observe Drax. Bond notices the plastic surgery Drax underwent due to his war injuries. One of his eyes is larger than the other, and Bond presumes it can not be closed. Bond is put off by Drax's boorishly rude behavior. The man is also sweating profusely and has bitten down all of his fingernails.

Bond and M approach Drax's table where Drax challenges M and Bond to a game of bridge after dinner. Now that Bond is closer to Drax, he easily spots his cheating method. Spotting the cheat, Bond happily agrees to the game. M and Bond then leave the game room and meet in a private office. Bond tells M that Drax is using his silver cigarette case as a mirror. He is able to see the cards as he deals them out. Bond says he must have an excellent memory but is able to know all the players hands. Basildon, the club chairman, joins them in the room, and Bond tells him what he has learned.

Basildon is very angry with Drax for cheating. He says he must have taken thousands of dollars from the members over the years, and some of them can scarcely afford it. He is reluctant to confront Drax as he is a national hero. Bond says he has a plan to stop Drax without confronting him. Bond gets permission from Basildon to cheat in order to teach Drax a lesson. He says he may be forced to take a lot of money from Drax.



Basildon tells Bond to do whatever he wants. Bond asks for two packs of cards and a few minutes alone before the game.

Bond and M go on to eat a fine dinner. Bond says that he will have to appear drunk if he is going to be convincing so he proceeds to drink a glass of vodka and a bottle of champagne. In the champagne, he mixes a white powder he has had sent to him from his secretary. He tells M it is Benzedrine, that it will help him keep his wits about him and stay confident. M trusts his judgment and tells him to do whatever he needs to do. Drax comes up to the men's table and goads them, before moving on to the card table. Bond and M make plans for their game. Bond tells M not to worry if he starts losing. He will do this to build up Drax's confidence. He tells M that when the time comes, he will pull a handkerchief out of his pocket. When he does this, M should allow Bond to do all the bidding.

Part One - Monday, Chapter 4 - The 'Shiner'; Chapter 5 - Dinner at Blades Analysis

To humiliate Drax at the card table is meant to save him embarrassment in the long run. It will allow him to understand that the club knows he is cheating, without outright accusing him. This will save everyone the embarrassment of accusing him of cheating. The club members would be just as embarrassed to have to accuse Drax.

Blades is an example of the high society of London. One of the themes of this novel is changing society. The world of Blades is also feeling the impact of this change. While they used to be very exclusive and available only to the upper class, now they are starting to accept anyone who can afford it. Drax is one of these members. He grew up poor but managed to make millions of dollars and can join Blades.



Part One - Monday, Chapter 6 - Cards with a Stranger; Chapter 7 - The Quickness of the Hand

Part One - Monday, Chapter 6 - Cards with a Stranger; Chapter 7 - The Quickness of the Hand Summary

Bond and M sit down at the table with Drax and Meyer. Right away, Drax tells Bond that he wants to take all his money. Bond suggests they play for the club limit. Bond agrees but immediately regrets it as he realizes if he loses just four times, he will have lost his entire income for a year. As a result of his impulsiveness, Bond begins to feel nervous. M tells Drax he is good for Bond if he loses, and Bond knows if he does lose, M will have to cover him. This makes him more nervous. As the game starts, Bond loses his nerves and focuses on crushing Drax.

After the first round, Drax is down nine hundred pounds. Then the cards start getting lucky for Drax. As he wins, he becomes obnoxious, commenting loudly on his good luck. As the game continues, Drax offers to raise the stakes. Bond agrees to one hundred pounds to the winner of each hand. Bond proceeds to lose several hands and then raises the stakes again. He loses two more hands. Bond realizes he is down fifteen hundred pounds, nearly his entire yearly salary. He is a little nervous but doubles the bet again.

The game continues with both sides winning a few hands. When Bond begins to win several in a row, Drax gets frustrated. Bond says he is ready to end the game and head home. However, Drax notices that Bond appears drunk, so he convinces Bond to continue and up the stakes again. He offers to raise the bet by fifteen, fifteen hundred pounds per hand. Bond is quiet for a moment, deliberately looking Drax in the eye and agreeing to the extremely high terms.

Bond's mind is clear, knowing what he is going to do. Several people crowd the table watching the high stakes game. As Bond watches Drax deal, he knows Drax is cheating. When Bond gets an excellent hand, Drax obviously knows it and chooses not to bid. Bond can detect the man's arrogance and decides it is time to make his move. M watches Bond as he pulls the handkerchief out of his pocket as his signal. Bond proceeds to deal the cards. He has secretly taken a second deck of cards from his pocket, a deck in which he prepared the order of the cards beforehand. He has trapped Drax. He knows that Drax has a very good hand and will bet highly. Yet, Bond has arranged it so while Drax has an excellent hand he and M have the only hand that can beat him. As Bond expects, Drax raises the stakes again. Eventually all the cards are laid down, and Drax is shocked to discover he has lost. His face goes white but his eyes become red with rage.



Bond looks Drax squarely in the eyes. Drax begins to call Bond a cheater but Basildon interrupts him, saying he has been watching the game and sees no reason for protest. He tells Drax to put his complaints in writing if he has any. Bond has won fifteen thousand pounds. Drax rises from the table and says good night, acknowledging his debt to Bond. Drax tells Bond he should spend the money quickly and walks quickly out of the room.

Part One - Monday, Chapter 6 - Cards with a Stranger; Chapter 7 - The Quickness of the Hand Analysis

Bond counts on Drax's ego and inflated sense of superiority due to his cheating to cause Drax to bet heavily. Drax is playing right into Bond's plan. Drax continues to act predictably and, by the end of Chapter Six, it is clear that Bond is going to beat Drax.

Chapter Seven ends the first storyline of the book. The story follows a simple story arc and ends as expected. Bond's plan has worked perfectly. He plans on beating Drax and does so. Bond has won several times his yearly salary, which he keeps. He did the favor for M, and they hope Drax will stop cheating. As there is still two thirds of the book left, it is safe to assume that Bond and Drax will meet again. The biggest clue is that Drax tells Bond to spend the money quickly. This suggests he will somehow kill Bond. This is clear foreshadowing for the rest for the next section of the book.



Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 8 - The Red Telephone; Chapter 9 - Take it from Here

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 8 - The Red Telephone; Chapter 9 - Take it from Here Summary

Bond walks into his office the next morning hung-over and feeling terrible from the late night. He sits at his desk and tries to read some files. He sees no point in having to read so many files unrelated to his job and this puts him in a further foul mood. Bond quits and stops to smoke a cigarette and look out the window. His thoughts turn to Drax. Bond can not understand why such a wealthy and successful man would want to cheat at cards. He decides Drax is paranoid and consumed with his own power so much that he can never allow himself to lose.

Bond sits at his desks and considers what he wants to buy with his winnings. He decides to buy new clothes, golf clubs, diamond clips and a new Rolls Bentley. This still leaves a large sum of money that he decides to invest in gold. As Bond continues to daydream and avoid work, the red phone on his desk rings. It is M summoning Bond to his office.

Bond enters M's office and his boss is all business today. He tells Bond two men working at the Drax's Moonraker facility were killed last night. M tells Bond that the site is secured by the Royal Air Force and the Service is responsible for screening the other personnel. Drax has brought out fifty German engineers to work on the site. One of the men killed was a security officer working for the Ministry of Supply, a man named Major Tallon. He was shot in the head in a local bar by one of the Germans. The German man then shot himself.

M says the Service has gotten involved, because they cleared the German man to work there. Furthermore, the Moonraker is set for its first launch in four days. Though the Service normally does not have jurisdiction to work within the United Kingdom, M has gotten permission from the Prime Minister to send Bond to work at the site as the new security officer. He will be working with a female police officer from Scotland Yard, Gala Brand, who is undercover as a secretary.

The German man who killed Tallon and himself, claimed to be in love with Brand. Before he killed Tallon, he said 'I love Gala Brand. You shall not have her.' She reports to have had no relationship with either of the dead men. Her boss at Scotland Yard, Vallance, has no reason to think she is lying. Besides Drax, Brand is the only non-German at the site. She has been at the site since the beginning and has seen nothing overtly suspicious.



M also tells Bond that the day before his murder, Tallon called his boss and told him he suspected something fishy happening but did not want to say anything else over the phone. They had plans to meet today but he was killed beforehand. Bond asks why they do not postpone the whole project until they discover what Tallon was worried about. The government decided there was not enough evidence to warrant a shutdown and decided to continue with the launch. The Moonraker will be test launched into the North Sea. Bond is to report to the Moonraker facility tonight, and Drax is expecting him.

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 8 - The Red Telephone; Chapter 9 - Take it from Here Analysis

Previous foreshadowing plays out as Drax and Bond will meet again. The mention of the German crew is suspicious. Drax was in World War II and fought against the Germans. Combined with the information about the amnesia, it is suggestive that he may have some connection there. The mention of Gala Brand introduces a new character to the story. It is safe to assume she will become a major character as she will work as Bond's partner.



Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 10 - Special Branch Agent

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 10 - Special Branch Agent Summary

Before heading to the Moonraker facility, Bond has a few meetings. First he meets Assistant Commissioner Vallance at Scotland Yard. At first Bond is uncomfortable working with a new department but he quickly gets to like Vallance. Vallance wants Bond to backup his officer, Brand, and to help in anyway he can. Bond is pleased to find no interdepartmental rivalry.

Next Bond meets with Professor Train, a physicist working on the Moonraker rocket. He gives Bond background on the working of the rocket. He tells Bond that it is Drax's Columbite that has made the Moonraker possible. It is the only material than can withstand the high temperatures of the rocket. Bond wonders how they can be so sure the rocket will come down where they want it to. The scientist tells him it is due to the gyros in the machine which work with a radar homing device. For the test launch, there will be a homing beacon in the sea which will be the target. Bond then asks about possible sabotage, which he learns would be relatively easy. A small hole in the fuselage would destroy the rocket.

Bond decides to put his previous dislike of Drax aside, giving him another chance. He will do his best to protect Drax's rocket. Later Bond is driving out to the site. Just before reaching the facility, he stops at the bar where the murder took place. He talks to the bartender about the incident and learns that that night was the first time Tallon visited the bar. Also, just before killing himself, the German shouted 'Heil,' the salute to Hitler used by the Germans before and during the War.

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 10 - Special Branch Agent Analysis

The German man who killed Tallon yelled "Heil Hitler" before killing himself. This and the fact that there are so many Germans working on the site further suggests there is some connection to the war. It would be strange for a war hero like Drax to choose only Germans to work at his site, after fighting them during the war. The use of so many Germans, at least one of them loyal to Hitler, suggests that something strange is going on. This is foreshadowing again that Drax may not be who he says he is. Since he had amnesia after the war, no one knows for sure that he is Drax.



Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 11 - Policewoman Brand

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 11 - Policewoman Brand Summary

Bond enters the Moonraker compound and is impressed with the security provided by the Air Force. Bond pulls up to Drax's house and is met by a butler who leads him into Drax's office. Bond enters and sees Drax standing with three other people. He is introduced to Miss Brand, Dr. Walter and Willy Krebs, Drax's assistant. Drax is warm towards Bond, and there is no tension between them over the incident at Blades.

Dr. Walter is the chief scientist on the Moonraker project. Drax teases him for being worried about everything, constantly thinking something is going to go wrong. As the men are talking, a siren is heard in the background and a team of men are seen orderly running outside. Drax says it is the shift change, and the men are very disciplined. They remind Bond of soldiers. The group moves to the dining room for dinner. During dinner, Bond reassesses his opinion of Drax. As he listens to the man speak about his project, he develops genuine admiration for him. On the other hand, Bond gets nowhere with Brand. She is cold towards him and largely ignores him. However, Bond is very attracted to her. She is more beautiful than her police picture suggested. Bond surmises that despite her reserve, she is a passionate woman.

The conversation moves towards the Moonraker, and Drax and Walter explain the facility to Bond. There is a large blast wall outside protecting the house and the barracks. However, when the rocket is eventually launched, the site will be cleared of all people except a few experts and a television crew. Drax offers to show Bond the rocket, and they head down to the facility. The site has tight security and strict procedures for entering the building due to the chemicals in use. When they finally enter the building, Bond is awed at the site of the amazing weapon.

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 11 - Policewoman Brand Analysis

Bond and Drax meet again. There is no tension between them from the night at Blades. Bond begins to have a new respect for Drax as he sees him at work. Bond also meets Brand for the first time. She is cold to him for an unknown reason. She seems to consider him an opponent from a competing service.

There is more foreshadowing here as Bond gets a tour of the Moonraker facility. Drax tells Bond that the site will be cleared of all people before the launch, suggesting that if

anyone is there they will be killed. The inclusion of these details is suggestive that perhaps someone will be there during the launch.



Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 12 - The Moonraker

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 12 - The Moonraker Summary

Being inside the rocket was like being inside an enormous gun barrel. Bond finds it beautiful. The building is very quiet with the workers all consumed with their work. Drax points out where the warhead will be. Bond is again impressed with the man's passion and knowledge of the entire working of the project. He assumes his brute behavior during the card game must be how he releases tension built up from this stressful job. Drax says that when they fire the Moonraker, it will be like committing murder. Bond is puzzled for a moment, but then Drax continues to say that it will be like the murder of his child.

Some of the German engineers come up, and Drax introduces Bond to them. He gets a cold reception from all the men. The men follow Drax away, and Bond is left standing alone. He wonders if one of the German men he just met is trying to sabotage the project. He finds it hard to believe one of them would be conspiring alone since the men are such a close-knit team. Bond notices that all the men dressed the same and have the same short cropped haircut. Oddly, each man also has a mustache, and each mustache is unique. Bond finds this very odd.

Drax comes up to Bond again and leads him into his office. He shows him the flight plan for the rocket launch on a large map. Bond sees a red diamond in the middle of the ocean, evidently the target for the rocket. Bond also sees detailed weather reports for the region. Drax tells Bond he doesn't think there is much for him to do as the security is already so tight. Bond then asks him about the mustaches, and Drax tells him it was his idea. It is a way to easily tell the men apart as they all dress the same.

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 12 - The Moonraker Analysis

The most significant thing from this chapter is Drax's statement that he will be committing murder at the launch of the Moonraker. Drax tries to play it off that he considers the Moonraker his baby and he will be murdering it, but the statement is very suggestive that Drax may be murdering someone else.

The focus on the engineers' mustaches is also suggestive of something, although it is not clear what. It is another unusual thing about the engineers, who are now very suspicious. It is becoming obvious that something strange is going on at the Moonraker facility.



Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 13 - Dead Reckoning; Chapter 14 - Itching

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 13 - Dead Reckoning; Chapter 14 - Itching Summary

That night, Bond is in his bedroom at Drax's house. He's using the room previously inhabited by Tallon. In the room is a locked filing cabinet that Bond manages to break into and examine the contents. In the top drawer, he finds several maps of the area. Bond spreads out one of them and uses his fingerprinting tools to see if it had been used. He finds two sets of prints, and their location on the map draws Bond's eyes to a faint line drawn on it. The lines start at Drax's house and spread out to the sea. Bond suspects they indicate some object observed out at sea. At the point where the lines meet, someone has drawn a question mark. Bond takes samples of the fingerprints and files them away for later.

Bond then moves to the bottom drawer of the filing cabinet. In it are the files for all the employees of the facility. Bond spends two hours reading each file. All of the men had unblemished records, which Bond finds odd. Bond also finds it interesting that in the photographs none of the men have mustaches. Bond decides to have the men's backgrounds checked again. Bond then moves to the window and opens it. He suspects that before his death, Tallon must have climbed out on the roof and spotted something out at sea. He might have then recorded it on the map in the filing cabinet. He suspects someone heard Tallon walking on the roof and wonders if this had something to do with his death. Bond further suspects it was Krebs, the assistant, that must have heard Tallon on the roof. Bond's intuition is telling him that there is something suspicious about Tallon's death. He puts this aside and gets in bed, keeping his gun under his pillow.

Bond wakes early the next morning and leaves the house quietly. He gets in his car and drives to the local police station. There he places a call to Vallance and tells him his suspicions. He also arranges to have the fingerprints he has taken sent to him for analysis. Vallance is surprised about the cold reaction from Brand. Bond decides he will talk to her again. As Bond is driving back to the Moonraker facility, he sees the German workers running across the site to their jobs, again just like soldiers.

Chapter Fourteen opens in Gala Brand's office. She is preparing the weather reports for Drax. She does this everyday but secretly knows Drax rechecks all her figures and records them in a small notebook he keeps in his pocket. She is not sure why Drax doesn't trust her but she is undercover and has to keep a low profile. She has been with the Moonraker project since the beginning and has become dedicated to its success. She considers James Bond, unsure what use he will be in such a short time. She finds



Bond conceited but handsome. Brand then leaves her office and heads to work with Drax.

When she returns to her office, she finds Bond sitting at her desk. The two exchange words, and Brand tells him he is wanted by Drax. Bond enters Drax's office and finds him looking at his maps. Bond asks him how long he has known Krebs. Drax is silent for a moment and takes out a cigarette and lights it. Finally he tells Bond that he doesn't entirely trust Krebs. Drax says that he once caught Krebs snooping around in his private papers, but Drax says he is harmless. Brand enters the room and says she also caught Krebs snooping around her room. Drax is surprised to hear this, 'so much for Krebs,' he says.

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 13 - Dead Reckoning; Chapter 14 - Itching Analysis

Bond continues to suspect something out of the ordinary, but he can not prove it. While he is finding more evidence of this, he is becoming more trusting of Drax. Despite the odd happenings, he likes Drax and sees him as a serious man trying to accomplish a difficult project. Bond's admiration for Drax seems to be overshadowing his suspicions.

Krebs has obviously become a suspicious character. The relationship between Krebs and Drax, however, is not known. The way in which Drax responds to Bond's questions about Krebs is suspect. It seems there may be something happening there. The engineers constantly running in a fashion similar to a group of soldiers is also possible foreshadowing as to their true identity.



Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 15 - Rough Justice

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 15 - Rough Justice Summary

Bond says that Krebs must be kept well away from the Moonraker. Drax says he is taking him to London tomorrow. He needs his help there. The men agree to keep a close eye on Krebs in the coming days. Drax says he has never seen Krebs speaking to any of the German men.

Drax tells Bond the plans for the day. That afternoon the site will be closed while the rocket is filled with fuel. Dr. Walter, Drax and a television crew will be the only people on the site. Tomorrow morning the Moonraker will be ready for launch. The next day, after a final check, Drax will personally press the launch button. During the shutdown, the military will be patrolling the boundaries of the facility. Drax asks Bond if he is satisfied with the security arrangements. Bond acknowledges that he is, admitting there is not much for him to do. Drax says that during the fueling, Krebs will be in the television van taking notes. Drax suggests that Bond and Brand take a look at the beach at the bottom of the cliff facing under the rocket. Bond agrees and then lies to Drax, telling him he is going to expect the firing point.

Bond then walks straight to the house. He quietly enters and walks up the stairs. As he reaches the top of the stairs, he sees the door of his room open. He enters and sees Krebs trying to break open one of Bond's bags. Bond strikes the man hard and knocks him over. Krebs hits his head on the side of a heavy table. Bond walks over to the man and searches his pockets, taking a set of keys. Krebs' head is bleeding, and Bond revives him. Krebs says he will only answer to Drax. He was only doing his duty. Then he suddenly jumps up and quickly runs out of the room. Bond lets him go and wonders to himself whether Krebs was under order from Drax.

Bond hears a knock at his door. He opens it and gets a telegram from Vallance at Scotland Yard. The note does not say much, only that the last call Tallon made to Scotland Yard was made from Drax's house. Bond wonders if he is on to something, if there really is someone trying to sabotage the Moonraker, or if this is all nothing. He is really not sure.

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 15 - Rough Justice Analysis

The story continues to develop along a clear path. Krebs is becoming more suspicious. It is nearly beyond doubt that he is planning something. Despite these obvious facts,



Bond is still not sure. He does not want to believe that Drax is a criminal. Bond suspects that someone may be trying to sabotage the Moonraker but he cannot believe it is Drax.

Drax's suggestion that Bond and Brand explore the cliffs is more foreshadowing. Drax's suggestion that they both leave the site together suggests that he wants them out of site for some reason. This could be because he does not want them to see something or because he wants them together to kill them. While this seems obvious, Bond does not notice it.



Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 16 - A Golden Day; Chapter 17 - Wild Surmises

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 16 - A Golden Day; Chapter 17 - Wild Surmises Summary

Bond and Brand are walking along the beach under the huge cliff face where the rocket is located. From far below, they can just see the dome of the building housing the Moonraker. The view is beautiful, and they are enjoying themselves. Brand is now being pleasant towards Bond. They discuss business, and Bond tells her everything he has been thinking. Brand tells him Drax has planned to send Krebs back to Germany next week. The two begin to flirt as they walk, and Bond suggests that they go for a swim. Brand agrees. They strip to their underwear and enjoy the cold sea. As they swim, Brand loses site of Bond. Suddenly he comes up from under her and kisses her on the mouth. Before she can react, Bond dives back under water. Brand is angry at first but then decides to forgive him.

Later they are lying in the sun letting their clothes dry. Bond is listening to her talk and watching some gulls fly on the cliffs above. As his mind is wandering, he sees the gulls violently dash away from the cliff wall. He sees a puff of smoke and hears a soft boom. Before he can think, an avalanche of stone falls down on top of him and Brand.

Bond gains conciseness and finds himself buried and on top of Brand. He struggles and finally frees their bodies. When Bond's head clears, he suddenly fears there was an explosion of the Moonraker. He looks up and sees it is not the case. They are one hundred yards down the coast from the site. Bond does notice a large piece of the cliff is missing. Bond and Brand slowly crawl to the sea and clean their bodies. Bond is relieved that Brand seems to be all right.

Bond and Brand are in shock. They hardly know what happened. Brand tells Bond that he saved her life. Bond tells her that someone pushed the cliff face on to them, that he saw the smoke from dynamite. He says people must have seen it as it was in full view of the Moonraker site. Brand wonders what they should do. Bond says someone wants them dead so they have to stay alive. Bond says even with what has happened, the Prime Minister will never agree to postpone the launch. It is too important to the country. Bond says they will have to solve this problem on their own. They start the walk towards St. Margaret's, a small town.

That night a taxi drops the two off in front of the Moonraker facility. They had rested and cleaned up at a hotel. Then they had dinner and a few drinks. This put them in a good spirit. Together they walk into Drax's house and straight into the dinning room. Drax, Krebs and Walter are eating dinner. They are all shocked to see Bond and Brand walk



in. Drax's eyes go wide and his fork stops halfway to his mouth. Drax recovers quickly and says they were very worried. Bond sits down at the table. Krebs passes out with his face falling on his plate. Walter quickly takes him out. Drax tells Bond he will be going to London tomorrow and will need to take Brand with him. He then quickly leaves the room.

Bond cannot be sure of Drax's reaction. It is still possible he did not know about the attempted killing. As Bond enters his bedroom, it is obvious to him that it has been searched again. As he gets in bed, his body is soar and tired. As he begins to fall asleep, he finds one thing very disquieting, the dinner table was only set for three people.

Part Two - Tuesday, Wednesday, Chapter 16 - A Golden Day; Chapter 17 - Wild Surmises Analysis

As Part Two comes to a close, it is now clear to Bond that someone wants him and Brand dead. As they were sent to the location on Drax's suggestion, it seems obvious that Drax is the one that wants him dead. However, Bond does not know this for sure. He still feels that he does not have enough evidence to go to the authorities and stop the Moonraker launch.

The fact that there were only three places set at the dinner table suggests that Drax, Krebs and Walter know about the attempted killing of Bond and Brand. They had no reason to think Bond and Brand would not be back for dinner. Since there was no place set for them, it means that they had reason to believe they would not be there. This middle section of the book moves the story to just before the launch of the Moonraker. The next section will take place on the day before and the day of the Moonraker launch.



Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 18 - Beneath the Flat Stone

Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 18 - Beneath the Flat Stone Summary

Bond is admiring Drax's Mercedes. He thinks it is typical of him to buy a German car. Drax comes out of the house and gets in the car with Krebs and Brand. They leave for the drive into London, Bond following in his own car. Bond and Brand had previously arranged to meet for dinner that night.

In Drax's car, Brand is trying to steal Drax's notebook from his coat pocket. In the notebook are coordinates for the rocket launching. As Drax is concentrating on driving, Brand covertly snatches the notebook. She then asks Drax if can stop at a hotel so she can use the restroom. He reluctantly agrees, and when she is alone in the bathroom, she studies the coordinates. She knows the rocket is scheduled to hit a target in the ocean, but the figures in the notebook are very different than the ones she knows. Suddenly she is shocked, realizing that the rocket is actually being directed to hit the center of London. She knows she has to call London to let someone know. Brand decides she will do it as soon as she gets into the city. She then hurries out to the car, and they head off to London.

As Brand attempts to quietly return the notebook to Drax's pocket, she is caught by Krebs. He immediately accuses her of being a spy. Drax pulls the car off into the forest and knocks Brand unconscious. An hour later she awakes tied to a chair in a room full of strange machines. She watches Krebs and Drax working with the machines, adjusting dials and switches. The men do not realize she is awake, and she pretends to still be unconscious. She is surprised to hear Drax speaking perfect German, and Krebs is referring to him as Herr Kapitan. Suddenly Brand realizes the machines are a radar homing device. This will be the target for the Moonraker. She sees out the window that they are just a hundred yards from Buckingham Palace. Brand starts to put things together, realizing Drax is an enemy of England and that the warhead on the Moonraker will be an atomic bomb. Brand faints from the shock of the realization.

Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 18 - Beneath the Flat Stone Analysis

Bond quickly realizes something is wrong and that Drax is the bad guy. He is angry with himself for ignoring all the obvious signs. At the end of Chapter Twenty, it appears that Drax is winning. He has taken out the only two people that know his true identity and intentions. It is not clear if Bond is still alive but he will certainly be seriously injured. At

this point in the novel, it appears that Drax may get away with his plan and destroy London.



Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 19 - Missing Person; Chapter 20 - Drax's Gambit

Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 19 - Missing Person; Chapter 20 - Drax's Gambit Summary

Bond is waiting for Brand in a restaurant. He begins to get worried as she is running late. As he waits, he thinks of the information Vallance gave him earlier that the pound had been fluctuating wildly that day and was down three cents at the close of the day. It turns out Drax's company had sold the British pound short for a profit of twenty million pounds. The treasury is confused and concerned by this action. Both Vallance and M are also concerned but they do not have enough evidence to justify stopping the Moonraker launch. They tell Bond if there is something bad going on it is up to Bond to find it out and stop it.

Brand is now running very late, so Bond goes out to a pay phone to call Scotland Yard to see if they have heard from her. He speaks to Vallance and he tells Bond that Brand did not show up for her scheduled meeting with him, either. Vallance is concerned and asks Bond to look into it for him. Vallance tells Bond that Drax is scheduled to leave London at nine o'clock to head back to Dover, and also that Drax has a house near Buckingham Palace. Bond hangs up the phone and makes his plan. He quickly eats dinner and heads out to find Drax. He spots Drax's car at Blades and follows it to his house near the Palace. He sees Krebs get in the car carrying a large carpet and suspects Brand is rolled inside.

Drax is driving very fast, and Bond is following at a distance. They are heading towards Dover, for the Moonraker facility. Bond is angry with himself for being so blind. He knows he should have stayed with his original impression of Drax and not bought into his passion for the Moonraker. Bond continues to follow Drax's Mercedes at a very high speed towards Dover.

Brand wakes in the back seat of Drax's Mercedes. She is in a lot of pain. She listens to Krebs and Drax talk and hears Krebs tells Drax he thinks Bond is following them. Drax says he will out run him and accelerates the already speeding car. Over the car radio, Brand hears the Prime Minister speaking heroically for the Moonraker missile. Drax laughs menacingly over the announcement.

Bond is following in hot pursuit reaching nearly one hundred miles per hour. Suddenly a car comes up from behind him and flies by. Bond watches the car approach Drax and try to pass him. Drax swerves his car, making the pursuing car flip. Bond sees the driver fly out of the car. Bond now knows without any doubt that Drax is the enemy and a



maniac. Bond pulls a gun from under his dashboard and puts it on his seat. He presses the gas pedal to the floor and begins to close the gap.

Drax is trying to find a way to loose Bond. He sees a large truck ahead carrying large rolls of newsprint and pulls alongside. He instructs Krebs to jump onto the rolls of newsprint. Krebs does so and cuts loose the huge rolls of paper. They go tumbling down and roll down the street. As Drax quickly rounds a corner, he hears a crash and sees Bond's car headlights whirl up into the sky and then go out.

Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 19 - Missing Person; Chapter 20 - Drax's Gambit Analysis

Bond quickly realizes something is wrong and that Drax is the bad guy. He is angry with himself for ignoring all the obvious signs. At the end of Chapter Twenty, it appears that Drax is winning. He has taken out the only two people that know his true identity and intentions. It is not clear if Bond is still alive but he will certainly be seriously injured. At this point in the novel, it appears that Drax may get away with his plan and destroy London.



Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 21 - 'The Persuader'; Chapter 22 - Pandora's Box

Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 21 - 'The Persuader'; Chapter 22 - Pandora's Box Summary

Drax pulls his car to the side of the road. He decides to go back and retrieve Bond's body. They do not want to take the risk of allowing Bond to escape. They stand looking at the wreck and find Bond's body. Krebs slowly pulls Bond out of the wreckage and throws him in the backseat of the Mercedes. Bond lands on top of Brand, and she can taste his blood. Brand tries to quietly awaken Bond and eventually he regains consciousness. Brand tells Bond everything she has learned about Drax and the missile hitting London. Bond knows he has to do something and attempts to jump out of the car but is beaten down by Krebs.

Finally the car comes to the Moonraker facility and pulls up to the launching dome. Bond and Brand are ushered into Drax's office. Krebs ties Bond and Brand to chairs, then leaves the room and comes back with a blowtorch. Drax begins asking questions, threatening Bond and Brand with the blowtorch. He asks who she is working for. She does not answer. Before Krebs has a chance to put the flame to her, Bond responds. He tells Drax they both work for Scotland Yard. Bond's reasoning is that if he lies to Drax and tells him that they have reported him to the authorities, Drax will simply kill them. So he decides to tell him the truth that no one else knows about Drax. Drax is pleased by this and tells Krebs to leave the room. Krebs puts the blowtorch down on the desk and leaves the office.

Drax says he has longed for an English audience, to tell someone of his plan. He says a full account of his plan is filed with a lawyer with instructions to open it after the launching of the Moonraker. He tells Bond and Brand he will give them a preview, before they are burned to death during the Moonraker launch. Drax gloats that all of England has been defeated by just one German. He then begins to tell his story.

Drax's real name is Graf Hugo von der Drache. His mother is English and his father German. He was educated in England until he was twelve-years-old and not treated very well by his English classmates. He finished his education in Germany and then went into the family business, making steel for aircrafts. During the war, he was a lieutenant in the Army, fighting the British in France. Then he was picked for the Foreign Intelligence Service of the SS, due to his English abilities. There he focused on terrorism and sabotage.

When the Germans are forced to withdraw from France, Drax stays back behind enemy lines with thirty men. It is there he meets Krebs. They stay in the woods for six months



plotting to attack the Allied forces. Drax decided to blow up an old farm house being used as a headquarters by the British and the Americans. He has one of his men drive a jeep loaded with explosives up to the house with a time delay fuse. The explosives are set to explode that night. Meanwhile Drax attacks a British soldier on a motorcycle, kills him and takes his uniform. After posing as a British soldier, he is attacked by a German plane. He is blasted off the road and lay injured in a ditch where he is found by a British patrol car. Thinking Drax is British because of his uniform, they pick him up and take him back to the camp, where the explosives are set to explode. Drax survives the explosion and in the aftermath is believed to be British. He feigns amnesia and floats around the British hospital system. During this time he makes his plans, his plans to extract revenge on Britain.

Drax knows he needs money and the appearance of being a gentleman. He uses his knowledge of metals from his days working in his family business. First he kills a money lender in England and steals fifteen thousand pounds. Drax then flees to Tangiers and starts investing in Columbite. He takes huge risks that pay off and, after five years, he is a multi-millionaire. At this point he comes back to London and begins spending lavishly on worthy causes to win over the British public. He goes to Germany and finds fifty of his old war buddies. He then secretly travels to Russia and meets with the leadership. He gets their head nuclear scientist, Dr. Walter, to help him build the Moonraker.

Walter and Drax build the Moonraker with the help of the Russians, planning the whole time to use it to destroy London. When Tallon became suspicious of their plan, it was easy to find a volunteer to kill him and himself. The murderer killed himself and made up the story about both of them being in love with Brand. Drax tells them as soon as the Moonraker is launched, he and his team will get in a Russian submarine and escape. Finally, he tells Bond he ordered his men to grow the different mustaches in order to disguise them. Drax finishes his story and looks at Bond. Bond calls him a paranoid megalomaniac, accusing Drax of being motivated only because he was teased and bullied as a child. This makes Drax angry, and he storms out of the room. He tells Bond and Brand he will only open the door one more time, tomorrow, just before the launch so they will be burned to death. Bond turns to Brand and tells her he just wanted to get Drax angry so he would leave the room quickly. In his haste, he forgot about the blowtorch still on the desk.

Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 21 - 'The Persuader'; Chapter 22 - Pandora's Box Analysis

Previous foreshadowing comes true here as Drax's history is revealed. He is not British at all but a German taking on the identity of a Briton who probably died in the war. This section of the book brings to light one of the themes of the novel, rejection. As a child, Drax is ridiculed by his English classmates. As he is half German with red hair, he looks different than his classmates and probably speaks differently, as well. As children often do, they tease him for being different. This seems to be one of the main motivations for Drax wanting to destroy England. While he says it is because England humiliated Germany during the war, this is not really the case. True history shows England treating

Germany relatively well after the war, helping them to rebuild. At this time Germany and Britain actually do not have a bad relationship. Drax is motivated for personal reasons much more than nationalistic ones. Drax is very immature and cannot deal with rejection like an adult. He dedicates his life to getting back at the children that hurt him.



Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 23 - Zero Minus; Chapter 24 - Zero

Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 23 - Zero Minus; Chapter 24 - Zero Summary

Bond manages to use his mouth to light the blow torch and, with some struggle, uses it to release Brand's bindings. She frees herself and unties Bond. Bond then tells Brand to get into the shower in the adjoining bathroom. Bond is going to ignite the fuel in the rocket, blowing it up and killing himself in the process. He tells Brand she may die too but there is no other option. They have to save London, even at the costs of their lives.

Brand tells Bond there has to be another way. They have more than eight hours to think of something, so she convinces Bond to wait. They will try and find another way. If not they will destroy the Moonraker together. Then Brand remembers the gyros, the mechanism that directs the Moonraker. She knows by heart the coordinates for the middle of the ocean, for the original target. She convinces Bond to reprogram the rocket just after the launch, after everyone has left the building. Bond agrees and they hide. They have to wait more than eight hours. Together they crawl into one of the fifty ventilator shafts and wait until morning.

Finally, it is morning. Bond and Brand are in a lot of pain from the cramped position they have had to hold. They hear workers come into the facility and then they hear Krebs discover that they are missing. Drax concludes that they must be in one of the ventilator shafts. They do not have time to check each one so they decide to blow steam into all the shafts, hoping this will force them out. Bond and Brand listen to the steam blasts coming closer and closer. As it reaches them, they brace themselves. They will have to withstand the pain, and not make a noise. The moment comes and the pain is terrible but they make it through without making a sound. Their bodies are in pain but they are alive. They continue to wait until all the workers leave the building.

Drax is speaking with the government representatives. He tells them everything is ready to go. The coordinates have been checked by him personally. There are fifteen minutes before the launch. Bond and Brand listen from their hiding spot, hearing the announcements from a loud speaker. Bond has memorized the instructions Brand has given him. He knows the correct coordinates and how to implement them. As the blastoff approaches, Bond sneaks out of his hiding spot and runs towards the rocket controls. The controls are just as Brand has described, and he quickly makes the correct adjustments. He sprints back to Drax's office and meets Brand. They get in the shower together and turn on the water, hoping to survive the blast of the engines. They turn on the radio and listen to the live happenings outside.

Drax comes on the radio, and they listen to his speech. He tells the people of England their lives are about to be changed forever, that the world is about to see the might of



his fatherland. Drax leaves the microphone and walks towards the launch controls. The countdown begins and finally Drax hits the launch button. The announcer then describes how Drax and his entire crew walk to a submarine and head out to sea. The announcer assumes they are going out to see the rocket's detonation point.

Bond and Brand are in the shower. It gets hotter and hotter. Finally, the floor shakes, and the pipes burst. They brace themselves, trying to hold on to their lives. They hear the voice of the announcer over the radio describing a perfect launch and that the Moonraker is heading out to sea. Everyone is surprised that Drax has gotten into a submarine as no one knew about this plan.

The scene switches to the HMS Merganser, a ship out at sea. They are waiting to see the Moonraker come down. The announcer on the boat is surprised to see Drax's submarine. The man working the radar then notices it is not a British submarine but a Russian one. Everyone is confused but they have no time to think as the rocket is coming down. The noise is deafening. The submarine is heading right into the target area for the Moonraker. Then there is a terrific explosion, and the submarine is thrown out of the water.

Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 23 - Zero Minus; Chapter 24 - Zero Analysis

Bond and Brand manage to save London. It is actually Brand that comes up with the idea and has the special knowledge to implement it. This is indicative of one of the themes of the novel, the changing times of the 1950's. It is not long ago that, as a woman, Brand could probably not be working undercover in the field. In this changing era, women are able to take a more serious role in society.

While it is not stated, it is obvious that London has been saved. The Moonraker does come down in the ocean. It appears that it may not be exactly on target. Ironically, it is Drax's submarine that is hit.



Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 25 - Zero Plus

Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 25 - Zero Plus Summary

The final chapter opens with Bond meeting in M's office. The rocket caused a massive tidal wave that has killed two hundred people so far. The HMS Merganser was lost with most of her crew. Drax's crew also died in their submarine. Fortunately the atomic blast was so far out to sea it will have no serious consequences. M tells Bond that the government is going to conduct a cover-up of the incident. The public will be told that the Moonraker was a success but there was a terrible accident with Drax, and he was tragically lost.

While Bond is in the office, M gets a call from the Prime Minister. M tells Bond to leave the country for two weeks on an all-expense paid vacation anywhere he likes. Brand has the same orders. The Prime Minister wanted to award Bond the George Cross but the Secret Service does not accept such public awards. Brand, on the other hand, will be receiving it from the Queen. Bond leaves M's office and returns to his. At his desk, he finds a gift from M, of two new guns. He smiles and tells his secretary to hold them for him. He is going to France.

Bond leaves the building pleased. He is looking forward to a vacation with Brand. He starts to think of lovely places he can take her for a romantic getaway. Bond waits for Brand in a park. As he waits, he thinks to himself that he may be falling for Brand. Then she walks up to him. When he sees her, he knows something is wrong. Bond looks over her shoulder and sees a man standing, obviously waiting for her. Brand tells Bond that the man is her fiancée. Bond is obviously disappointed, but he is still kind to her. He tells her he is jealous, that he had plans for them. She tells him there are plenty of other girls for him to find. They say goodbye, and she walks away, into their different lives.

Part Three - Thursday, Friday, Chapter 25 - Zero Plus Analysis

At the end of the story, Bond is clearly looking forward to starting a romantic relationship with Brand. When he is rejected, he handles it very well. He makes light of it and tells Brand his feelings. This is in stark contrast to how Drax handles rejection. This hits on two of the themes of the novel: the pain of failure versus the joy of success, and rejection. Bond would have enjoyed dating Brand but the happiness he would have received from it would probably not be as strong as the pain he feels from being rejected by her. This is in relation to Bond's feeling towards gambling. Despite his

acknowledgment of these feelings, Bond continues to gamble. He will probably keep pursuing women as well.



Characters

James Bond

A British secret agent, code named 007, Bond works for the secret service which is the department normally responsible for conducting missions abroad. Bond is a bachelor and enjoys the finer things in life. He speaks several languages and is well trained with weapons. He is the best shooter in the Service.

His hobbies are his car, a Bentley, golf and gambling. He is an avid smoker and drinker. His drink of choice is a dry martini. During the story, he falls for police officer Gala Brand. She finally breaks his heart at the end of the story. During the story, Bond defeats Drax in a high stakes game of bridge. He also is chosen to work security at Drax's Moonraker facility. There he eventually discovers that Drax is attempting to blowup London. At the last second, he manages to redirect the rocket and saves London while killing Drax.

Sir Hugo Drax

Drax is a German agent posing throughout the novel as a British multi-millionaire war hero. His real name is Graf Hugo von der Drache .He has an English mother and a German father. As a child, he attended school in England and was teased and bullied badly by the British children. This caused a lifelong hatred of the British. His family owns a factory that makes metal for aircraft. There he learned about the metal Columbite, which is very strong and heat resistant, ideal for making rockets.

During World War II, he was in the German Army. While he is posing as a British soldier, a bomb explodes. He survives the blast and in the wreckage he is thought to be British. He spends a year in a British hospital faking amnesia. Von der Drache finally takes the identity of a man named Hugo Drax.

He leaves the hospital and kills a man to steal his money. He uses this money to invest in Columbite. He makes millions of dollars and comes back to London. He spends his fortune on worthy causes and wins the heart of the public. He then initiates the Moonraker project. This will create an atomic rocket capable of heating any city in Europe. Hours before the launch, Bond discovers his true identity and that he is actually going to try and blow up London.

Gala Brand

Gala Brand is a police officer working for the special branch of Scotland Yard. She is a beautiful young woman. She is undercover working at the Moonraker site as a secretary for Drax. She has been undercover for over a year and has become very dedicated to the Moonraker, genuinely hoping for its success. As part of her job, she has to learn the



coordinates for the rocket. This information helps Bond save London at the end of the novel. She is awarded the George Cross from the Queen for her role in helping to save London from Drax.

When she first meets Bond, she is cold toward him, fearing inter agency rivalry, but she quickly gets to like him. The two flirt and seem to be falling for each other during the story. However at the end of the novel, it is revealed that she is engaged to be married. This information dismays Bond but he handles the rejection well. The two part on good terms but do not plan on seeing each other again.

M

M is Bond's boss. He is a secretive and serious executive in the Secret Service.

Dr. Walter

Dr. Walter is Brax's right hand man while building the Moonraker. He is a physicist. At the end of the novel, it is revealed that he is actually a Russian scientist, having built the Moonraker in order to blow up London.

Willy Krebs

Willy Krebs is also Drax's right hand man. He is caught snooping around the private rooms in Drax's house. At the end of the story, it is revealed he was a member of the German Wolverines and worked with Drax in the German army. He is one of the conspirators attempting to destroy London.

Meyer

Meyer is Drax's metal broker and his usual bridge partner.

Brevett

Brevett is the long-time porter of the Blades club.

Basildon

Basildon is the Chairman of Blades.



Loelia Ponsonby

Loella Ponsonby is Bond's secretary. She is unmarried and has little in her life other than her job. She treats the three 'OO's she works with as brothers.

Vallance

Vallance is the head of the special branch of Scotland Yard.

Egon Bartsh

Bartsh is the German electronics expert working for Drax on the Moonraker. He walks into a bar, kills Major Tallon, and then kills himself. Before killing the man, he says " " and "Heil Hitler."

Major Tallon

Tallon is a police officer working for the special branch, head of security at the Moonraker site. He is killed by Egon Bartsch. Bond takes his place as head of security at the Moonraker site.



Objects/Places

Regents Park

Regents Park is a large park in London. The Secret Service building is adjacent to the park, and Bond often gazes out his window at the park.

Blades

Blades is a famous and exclusive gambling club in London. This is where the card game between Bond and Drax takes place.

The Secret Service

The Secret Service is the organization Bond works for. It is an intelligence agency that normally conducts missions abroad, often referred to as the Service.

Columbite

Columbite is a mineral with a very high melting point used in the building of the Moonraker. Drax makes his fortune by buying this mineral.

Moonraker

Moonraker is the large rocket being built by the British and funded by Drax. It will carry a nuclear weapon and be capable of hitting any capital in Europe. Drax attempts to set this rocket off in London but his plot is foiled by Bond.

Bentley

A Bentley is an expensive British-made automobile.

Bridge

Bridge is a four player card game. Bond beats Drax in a game of bridge in the first section of the book.



Dover

Dover is a city on the coast of England famous for its white cliffs. This is the location of the Moonraker facility.

Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace is the home of the royal family of England.

World without Want

World without Want is the tavern near the Moonraker facility where Egon Bartsh killed Major Tallon and himself.

Tangiers

Tangiers is a city in Morocco, the base of operations for Drax's investment company.



Themes

Changing eras

The 1950's is a time of great change in the world. The post-war period sees a reorganization of world powers. Europe was especially forced to reconsider their international relationships. The development of the atomic bomb changed the world of international relations and had dramatic effect on the lives of everyday people. Furthermore, society was changing as well as women's roles in society. In Britain, the traditional upper class is being forced to become more accepting of people born of a lesser class but who have earned new money . All of these changes are reflected in Moonraker.

Blades, the London gambling club, is a classic British aristocratic institution. They have a long rich history and an exclusive membership. Before the war, there would probably be little chance of a man like Hugo Drax being accepted into this membership. Drax is believed to be born into a working class family. He makes his millions by working hard and being lucky. When he becomes wealthy, the old money crowd is forced to accept him. In the club, he is crass and often vulgar, traits that are considered unacceptable to the gentlemen at Blades. When he is suspected of cheating, it is unthinkable to this crowd. A proper gentleman simply would not do that. This is one example of the changes era described in the book. It is a leveling of classes. People born into one class have the opportunity to move up in society.

Bond's secretary, Loelia Ponsonby, is the perfect example of the new woman in British society. She is an independent woman, working in a professional environment, unmarried. Ponsonby works hard and takes her job seriously. She does not date and is not focused on getting married. This is different than the normal woman prior to the 1950's where woman primarily stayed at home and raised children. This is another example of the changing era.

The cold war and the advent of the atomic bomb is the most serious change seen in this era. The atomic era changes everyone's lives in preparing for an eventual nuclear explosion. This cold war creates a whole new environment of intelligence and government secrecy. This is the world where James Bond operates.

Pain of Failure vs. Joy of Success

Bond is a gambler and therefore has had a fair amount of experience with winning and losing. He has determined that the pain of losing is normally worse than the joy of winning. He feels this after his card game with Drax. He defeats Drax but does not feel great about his win. Drax, on the other hand, obviously is quite angry about his loss. The emotion felt by losing is stronger than the emotion from winning.



Bond gets this feeling when he is rejected by Brand. Bond has a much more mature reaction. Instead of becoming bitter and trying to seek revenge on Brand, he smiles and moves past his anger and embarrassment. He feels real pain from this rejection. If he had dating Brand and taken her on a romantic vacation, he probably would not have had as strong an emotion about it.

Rejection

One of the more minor themes of the novel is rejection. Both Bond and Drax face rejection in the story but they deal with it very differently. Drax is rejected by his peers while in grade school in England. He looks differently and has a long German name. As children do, they tease him and make fun. This shapes his whole life. When he grows old, he takes out his bitterness towards his old schoolmates as a hatred for the whole of England. During the war, he finds an excellent outlet to fight England. He uses his English ability to work against England and takes every opportunity to strike out. Later when posing as Drax, he takes his hatred spurned from this rejection so far that he is willing to destroy all of London and kill as many as a million people. Drax also tries to find acceptance from other outlets. He finds it in the army and from the Soviets. The Soviets accept him because they have a common enemy in the British. Drax shows a serious immaturity with the way he deals with rejection throughout his life. It eventually gets him killed.

Bond, on the other hand, shows a remarkable maturity when he is rejected. At the end of the novel, he is looking forward to starting a romantic relationship with Gala Brand. When she rejects him, because she is engaged to another man, Bond is disappointed. Instead of lashing out at Brand, he is kind to her. He tells her he is disappointed and jealous but not bitter or angry with her. In turn, she is gentle with him, telling him there are many more woman out there. Bond is let down but does not let the rejection grow into a hatred for Brand or for women, the way Drax did towards the English. Bond's handling of rejection is markedly different than Drax's and indicative of the good guy and the bad guy of the story.



Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the third person. The narrator, who is not a character from the story, is reliable and knows all details of the story as well as the characters' inner thoughts and feelings. Along with the narrator, dialogue is also used to progress the story. The viewpoint of all major characters is revealed. Often times the reader is aware of things that the character is not.

Setting

The novel is set in England, in the cities of London and Dover. London is the capital of England and has a population of over one million. Dover is famous for its white cliffs that face the sea. The cliffs are very large and steep. Below the cliffs is a beach. The Moonraker is built into the cliff wall. Bond and Brand are nearly killed when the large pieces of the cliff fall down on them while they are laying on the beach. The story takes place in the 1950's during the cold war following World War II.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in British English, slightly different than American English. Words like splendor are spelled with a 'u.' The novel was written in 1955, so some of the language is antiquated. There are short German phrases used throughout but it is not necessary to understand German. The meaning is clear by the context. Fleming uses clear foreshadowing that is never misleading and often very obvious.

Structure

The novel has a slightly unusual storyline. There are two story arcs. The first is about ninety pages and covers Bond and M dealing with Drax cheating at cards. Once this story line ends, the second begins with most of the same characters along with some new ones. Bond takes over security at the Moonraker facility.

The novel is suspenseful and easy to read. Most chapters are less than ten pages. The title of the chapters reveals something about what is happening in the chapter. The plot is clear and follows a steady progression.



Quotes

Bond "had a small but comfortable flat off the King's Road, an elderly Scottish housekeeper - a treasure called Mary - and a 1930 4 ½ -litre Bentley coupe, supercharged, which he kept expertly tuned so that he could do a hundred when he wanted to. On these things he spent all his money and it was his ambition to have as little as possible when he was killed, as, when he was depressed, he knew he would be, before the statutory age of forty-five." Chapter 1, p. 11.

"The hint of criticism came from the Puritan and the Jesuit who live in all leaders of men." Chapter 2, p. 17.

"to become very rich you have to be helped by a combination of remarkable circumstances and an unbroken run of luck. It certainly isn't only the qualities of people that make them rich." Chapter 5, p. 60.

"Nearly every night for more than a hundred and fifty years there had been just such a scene, he reflected, in the famous room. The same cries of victory and defeat, the same dedicated faces, the same smell of tobacco and drama. For Bond, who loved gambling, it was the most exciting spectacle in the world." Chapter 7, p. 78.

Bond "reflected, as he had often reflected in other moments of triumph at the card table, that the gain to the winners is, in some odd way, always less than the loss to the loser." Chapter 8, p. 92.

"Bond decided, she [Brand] was a very lovely girl and beneath her reserve, a very passionate one. And, he reflected, she might be a policewoman and an expert at jujitsu, but she also had a mole on her right breast." Chapter 11, pp. 130-131.

Bond "was greeted by a scene of such splendour that for several minutes he stood speechless, his eyes dazzled by the terrible beauty of the greatest weapon on earth." Chapter 11, p. 133.

"I am about to change the course of England's history.' A pause. 'in a few minutes' time the lives of all of you will be altered, in some cases, ahem, drastically, by the, er, impact of the Moonraker. I am very proud and pleased that fate has singled me out, from among all my fellow countrymen, to fire this great arrow of vengeance into the skies and this to proclaim for all time, and for all the world to witness, the might of my fatherland. I hope that this occasion will be forever a warning that the fate of my country's enemies will be written in dust, in ashes, in tears, and, 'a pause' in blood. And now thank you all for listening and I sincerely hope that those of you who are able will repeat my words to your children, if you have any, tonight." Chapter 24, p. 291.

"They're going to try the biggest cover-up job in history, 'said M 'A lot of scientific twaddle about the fuel having been only half used up. Unexpectedly powerful explosion



on impact. Full compensation will be paid. Tragic loss of Sir Hugo Drax and his team." Chapter 25, p. 299.

[A cover up is] "going to be risky business. The big lie always is. But what's the alternative? Trouble with Germany? War with Russia? Lots of people on both sides of the Atlantic would be only too glad of an excuse." Chapter 25, p. 301.

"These politicians can't see that the atomic age has created the most deadly saboteur in the history of the world - the little man with the heavy suitcase." Chapter 24, p. 301.

A pigeon "came to rest on the window-sill with the same clatter of wings. It walked up and down, nodding and cooing, and then planed off towards the trees in the park. The traffic murmured sleepily in the distance. How nearly it had come, thought Bond, to being stilled. How nearly there might be nothing now but the distant clang of the ambulance bells beneath a lurid black and orange sky, the stench of burning, the screams of people still trapped in the building. The softly beating heart of London silenced for a generation. And a whole generation of her people dead in the streets amongst the ruins of a civilization that might not rise again for centuries." Chapter 25, p. 303.

"Good bye James,' He touched her for the last time and then they turned away from each other and walked off into their different lives." Chapter 25, p. 310.



Topics for Discussion

Why do the men at Blades feel that it is better to humiliate Drax by beating him at the card table than to humiliate him by calling him a cheater?

Is there anything wrong with Bond defeating Drax by cheating himself?

At the end of the novel, M says the most dangerous thing the world has ever seen is a "little man with the heavy suitcase." While the story was written and takes place in the 1950's, this statement is very indicative of today's war on terror. How does this statement reflect today's era?

In the beginning of the novel, Bond says the "gain to the winners is...always less than the loss to the loser," how does this become true to Bond personally at the end of the story?

Is Drax motivated more out of revenge because of Germany's treatment during the war or to get back at the children who teased him during his school days in England?

From the British point of view, can the Moonraker be considered a success?

Why does Bond ignore his instincts and not suspect Drax until it is overly obvious that he is guilty?