

On Her Majesty's Secret Service Study Guide

On Her Majesty's Secret Service by Ian Fleming

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Plot Summary

James Bond is number 007 in Her Majesty's Secret Service, one of the highest level international spies in Britain. Bond is on the track of the villainous Blofeld, who escaped Bond in the wake of his last adventure, when he falls in love—for the first time—with the troubled daughter of the head of the French mafia. With the help of this new alliance, Bond catches up with Blofeld and foils a scheme that could fell the British economy. Still, he pays the ultimate price for his victory, and Blofeld escapes him yet again.

As the story begins, Bond is wrapping up a vacation on the French seashore. Bond comes to the rescue of a beautiful and distressed woman, Tracy, who can't pay her gambling debt to the casino. He ends the night in her bed. Fascinated by this mysterious woman, Bond comes to the conclusion that Tracy plans to kill herself. While he's watching over her to keep her safe, both Bond and the woman are swept up by professional crooks. Bond learns that the crooks work for Tracy's father, the head of the French mafia. Tracy's father offers Bond a fortune to marry his suicidal daughter, who has fallen in love with Bond. Bond refuses. Still, the two men feel a common bond. Tracy's father agrees to send his daughter for therapy, and he tells Bond that Blofeld, the crook Bond has been chasing, is alive and living in Switzerland.

The Secret Service and the Swiss police fail to track Blofeld until they discover that the villain has contacted the British College of Arms to track his genealogy and prove that he is a count. Bond arranges to meet with Blofeld in Switzerland, disguised as a researcher for the College of Arms. In Switzerland, Bond discovers that Blofeld has bought a peak in the Alps called Piz Gloria. Disguised as an elite ski resort, the facility contains a mysterious research institute where Blofeld is supposedly researching allergies. He's treating ten beautiful young patients with hypnotherapy.

When Bond's identity is discovered, the secret agent escapes by skiing down the mountain in the middle of the night, followed by gunfire and pursued by an avalanche. At his direst hour, he is rescued by Tracy and realizes that he's truly in love. Bond asks Tracy to marry him, and she accepts. After his escape, Bond consults with the Secret Service and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing, and they put the pieces of the puzzle together. Blofeld is hypnotizing unsuspecting farm girls to destroy all of Britain's crops and livestock by using biological weapons.

Bond arranges to stop the plot and lead a counterattack against Piz Gloria, working with Tracy's father. Bond, with a group of French mafia agents, destroys Piz Gloria and Blofeld's organization, but Blofeld escapes in a harrowing chase down the mountain on bobsleds. Despite this setback, Bond returns to Tracy, looking forward to wedded bliss. After the wedding, as the couple is driving to their hard-earned, two-week honeymoon, a car passes them on the roadway. A bullet flies through the window and Tracy's car flies off the road. Tracy has been shot, and the figure in the car that speeds away is Blofeld.



Chapter 1, Seascape with Figures

Chapter 1, Seascape with Figures Summary

James Bond is number 007 in Her Majesty's Secret Service, one of the highest level international spies in Britain. Bond is on the track of the villainous Blofeld, who escaped Bond in the wake of his last adventure, when he falls in love—for the first time—with the troubled daughter of the head of the French mafia. With the help of this new alliance, Bond catches up with Blofeld and foils a scheme that could fell the British economy. Still, he pays the ultimate price for his victory, and Blofeld escapes him yet again.

As the novel begins, James Bond is vacationing at the seaside in France. The beach is colorful and crowded, almost a carnival, with music playing and bathers as far as the eye can see. Bond sits in a shelter, watching the scene at the seashore. He remembers his own childhood and the joys of playing on the beach during summer vacation. His life is far removed from those carefree childhood days. Bond is a spy, and he's watching a woman.

The sun begins to set and the beach clears. Two French girls flirt with Bond as they leave the beach, but he doesn't respond. Still, the woman Bond is watching remains. Bond senses danger for the woman. He is watching to protect her. Bond believes that only he and the woman remain on the beach, but unknown to him, two dangerous-looking men are sitting at a cafe, watching Bond as he watches the woman.

As the sun sets, the woman stands and walks toward the ocean. Bond hurries down to the beach to catch up with her before she reaches the sea. Still undetected, the two men at the cafe get up and follow Bond. As Bond approaches the woman, he thinks about what he will say. When he reaches her, he calls her name: Tracy. He tells her that he's worried about her, but she's looking at something behind Bond.

Bond finds himself held at gunpoint by the two men behind him. Bond keeps his cool as he's frisked. The girl shows no reaction. A boat comes up to them from the ocean, and Bond takes the opportunity of rolling up his trousers to transfer one of his knives from his shoe to his pocket. The gunmen usher Bond and Tracy onto the boat. Bond gives Tracy his jacket, and Tracy leans against him. As they ride away, Bond is left to look back over the events of the past day and wonder how he ended up in this situation.

Chapter 1, Seascape with Figures Analysis

Ian Fleming starts out this James Bond thriller in the middle of the action. Bond is worried about a mysterious woman. The reader doesn't yet know who she is or why he's worried, and she becomes more mysterious as the chapter concludes. Bond himself is unsure of her motives. Is she a conspirator with the hardened gunmen who take Bond captive? Is she an unwitting pawn, used to lure Bond into this situation? Fleming uses



this structure to build suspense in the reader. By limiting the reader's knowledge, Fleming captures the reader's interest.

In the first chapter, Fleming also contrasts the simple, carefree family life of the seashore with Bond's dangerous life as a spy. The setting of the French seaside spurs Bond to remember his childhood and think about how far away he's come. The lengthy description of the seashore at the beginning of the chapter is contrasted to the dire situation that ends it, plunging the reader from normal, everyday life into another world of international adventurers.



Chapter 2, Gran Turismo

Chapter 2, Gran Turismo Summary

One day, prior to being abducted on the beach, Bond speeds his Bentley down a French roadway as he composes, in his mind, his letter of resignation from the Secret Service. About a year ago, Bond foiled the master criminal Ernst Stavro Blofeld, who stole a nuclear weapon and held the international community for ransom. For the last year, Bond has been assigned to hunt down Blofeld and anything that remains of his villainous organization SPECTRE. This job has been tedious and unrewarding, no more than plain police work, and Bond doubts that Blofeld is still alive or that SPECTRE could be reorganized. He is sick of the unadventurous assignment, and he plans to tender his resignation.

A woman in a white Lancia Flaminia Zagato Spyder races up behind Bond on the roadway and zooms past him. Bond is instantly attracted by this woman, who drives so well. He races after her, speeding up to 125 and gaining on her. Then, they reach a village, and they must slow down. The woman's car has a superior axle to tear through the town streets, and she gains more of a lead every time they drive through a town. Bond is enjoying the race and considers following the woman instead of taking his turnoff to his destination. Finally, though, he loses her in the distance.

Bond is looking forward to his vacation in the French casinos. He's got one million francs saved up. That's in Old Francs. In the new currency, it's ten thousand francs, seven hundred British pounds. He prefers thinking of his spending money in the larger figure. He's ready to gamble it all away in a heady rush. As Bond comes up to his hotel, he sees the Lancia parked in front. He asks about the woman and learns that she is La Comtesse Teresa di Vincenzo. Bond changes, has a drink, and chooses a favorite spot for dinner before heading off to the casino.

Chapter 2, Gran Turismo Analysis

Bond is a man who craves excitement and high living. He isn't satisfied with his job at the Secret Service if he must be mired with mere detective work. Instead, he craves the excitement of high danger. In his private life, Bond owns a Bentley, not only an expensive car, but a superior racing car, as well. The description of the two cars details their design and benefits, showing Bond to be a connoisseur. He wants the most exciting car, in its look, its feel, and its abilities. This is what he looks for in life—excitement. For the same reason, he plans to quit the Secret Service if it can't deliver enough thrills.

The woman in the Lancia attracts Bond because she, too, delivers thrills. She outpaces him in her car, something that he finds devastatingly attractive. He presumes that she's beautiful because she drives so well. He looks for thrills from gambling, and he's willing



to gamble away every cent in search of them. He thinks of his money using the old monetary value to increase the thrill. As a "millionaire", he is a high-stakes gambler at the top of life. Bond wants the best of everything: cars, women, food, hotels, and experiences.

The reader also sees Bond's drinking habits emerging in this chapter. As soon as he arrives at the hotel, he drinks a quarter a bottle of wine. He has a half a bottle of wine with dinner, before his night in the casino. Bond craves thrills. He must be stimulated all the time. Alcohol seems to provide stimulation that Bond needs.



Chapter 3, The Gambit of Shame

Chapter 3, The Gambit of Shame Summary

Bond, the captive of the two gunmen, is rushed across the sea in the cold night air, holding the girl. Again, he thinks back over the previous day.

When Bond goes to the casino, he joins a high-stakes game of baccarat. Bond waits for a run of luck, and finally he begins to win. He doubles his money and then keeps doubling it. His wins keep increasing. Finally, his luck ends, but he has made a small fortune. Bond vows to hold on to his winnings by playing conservatively.

Then, the woman with the white Lancia comes up to the table. The countess is a beautiful blonde. She bets "banco", the maximum bet, which matches the bank, and loses. Then, she can't pay her debt and the casino will not cover her. Without a thought, Bond pays the twenty million francs (about half his winnings), remarking falsely that he is her partner. The woman goes to the bar, and Bond continues to play.

Forgetting caution, Bond tries to regain his winnings with an enormous bet, and he loses. Now left with only a small profit, Bond goes to find the countess at the bar. He tells her that he was the driver who raced her on the road. She says that she would always beat him in a race because she doesn't want to live. The countess tells Bond to call her "Tracy", and arranges to meet him in her room to repay his forty million francs with a night of passion.

Chapter 3, The Gambit of Shame Analysis

The author plays with time to build suspense. Fleming starts the story at the most suspenseful moment, when Bond and Tracy have been captured and are speeding toward an unknown destination. At the beginning of this chapter, Fleming reminds the reader of Bond's present predicament before continuing the story of the past twenty-four hours.

Tracy immediately reveals herself to be suicidal. Her driving is suicidal, and Bond comes to race her. Her bet is suicidal, and Bond comes to bail her out. Even before the two characters know each other, Tracy is dependent on Bond to make her life meaningful.

Bond's behavior at the casino shows his addiction to risk and danger. Bond is willing to bet everything on a game that's mostly governed by chance. Then, when he wins, he is willing to throw half his winnings away to save a woman. Left with only twenty times his original investment, instead of walking away, he gambles everything to get back his huge stakes. He thrives on the risk, and he makes the game personal, by portraying the man Tracy lost to as a monster. This foreshadows Bond making his conflict with Blofeld personal instead of professional later in the novel.



Chapter 4, All Cats are Grey

Chapter 4, All Cats are Grey Summary

Bond goes to Tracy's room. She does not want to speak, only to make love. Afterwards, she asks him to come back in the morning for one more tryst. She appears happy, but as he leaves, she seems to be crying. The next morning, they make love again. When Bond tries to make plans with her for the day, she gets angry and picks a fight with him, telling him to get out and leave her alone. An interlude flashes forward again to Bond and Tracy roaring through the night on the boat, captives.

Back to earlier in the day, Bond can't get Tracy out of his head. He is convinced that their encounter was a final fling and that Tracy plans to kill herself. He rents a car that she won't recognize and follows her to the beach. He doesn't see the unobtrusive car following him. This leads Bond to the present, as he speeds up the river under duress.

The boat docks, and Bond and Tracy are led into a large truck trailer being used as an office. Bond uses his knife at the final moment, locking himself in the back office of the trailer with his captors' boss. The man tries to calm Bond by surrendering and asking Bond to listen. Bond instantly likes him. Bond displays his prowess by throwing the knife at a wall calendar, and then the two men sit down to talk. The man introduces himself as Marc-Ange Draco. He knows that Bond is in the British Secret Service. Draco introduces himself as the head of the Union Corse, the French mafia.

Chapter 4, All Cats are Grey Analysis

The saying, "All cats are gray in the dark", means that you can't tell black from white, or good from bad. Bond can't read Tracy. Especially looking back from his position as a captive, he can't tell whether Tracy is truly suicidal and distressed or whether she is manipulating him.

When Bond finally gets to the end of his journey, he meets another "gray cat". Draco, the head of the French mafia, is clearly a criminal. Still, Bond likes him instantly and is willing to sit and talk with the man. The lines between good and bad seem defined more by personal charm than by affiliation.

By ending the chapter at the moment when Draco reveals his position as head of the French mafia, Fleming leaves the reader in suspense. What does Draco want? How is the French mafia concerned with a British spy? The reader must read on to find out.



Chapter 5, The Capu

Chapter 5, The Capu Summary

Draco, whose title as head of the Union Corse is Capu, pledges Bond to secrecy, which Bond accepts with the reservation of anything affecting Britain's security. Then, Draco reveals that he is Tracy's father. He tells Bond Tracy's story.

Tracy's mother died ten years ago, and Tracy finished her education in Switzerland. She began going around with the idle rich and leading a meaningless life that left her dissatisfied. She married a count who ran off with her money, leaving her with a child. Then, the child died of spinal meningitis. That left Tracy suicidal. Tracy disappeared, and her father tried to track her down. Draco tells Bond how Tracy, as a young girl, threatened to kill herself by swimming out into the sea. When Draco heard that Tracy was at that same resort, he feared she remembered her childhood threat and planned to carry it out. Then, he received a suicide note from her, mentioning Bond by name.

Tracy's father begs Bond to marry his daughter so that she will have something to live for. He offers to settle a fortune on Bond as a dowry. Bond angrily rejects this offer and begs Draco to get Tracy psychiatric help. Reluctantly, Draco agrees, but asks Bond to have dinner with Tracy to give her hope. Bond agrees.

Draco asks if there is anything he can do for Bond. Bond mentions that he is looking for Blofeld, and Draco reveals that Blofeld is alive and in Switzerland.

Chapter 5, The Capu Analysis

Tracy's story is laid out for Bond. Her life has been one of tragedy and loss. Draco puts all his hopes on Bond to save Tracy, and Tracy herself admits in her suicide note that Bond could change her mind about life being worthwhile. Essentially, Tracy needs a man like Bond to make her life worth living. On her own, she feels worthless.

Bond rejects the idea of "fixing" Tracy by marrying her, but at the same time, he has dinner with her to give her hope for the future. Even though Bond refuses Draco's proposal, Tracy seems to base her recovery on the promise of love with Bond. She builds her life around a man.



Chapter 6, Bond of Bond Street? and Chapter 7, The Hairy Heel of Achilles

Chapter 6, Bond of Bond Street? and Chapter 7, The Hairy Heel of Achilles Summary

Two months later, Bond has had little luck tracking down Blofeld. The Swiss police are reluctant to bother wealthy citizens. Bond had a pleasant dinner with Tracy and bedded her sweetly, telling her they might meet again around Christmas. Since then, she has been at a psychiatric facility to recover.

Bond's Synchrhone (a pager) beeps, and he calls into headquarters. His secretary, Mary Goodnight, tells him to report to the College of Arms to meet with Griffon Or. Bond meets with Or, who begins lecturing Bond on the history of his name and speculating that Bond might be related to a baron. Or is offended to learn that Bond isn't interested in his genealogy, although Bond Street was named after Sir Thomas Bond and the Bond motto is "The World is not Enough". Bond finally conveys that he's interested in Blofeld, and Or sends him to see Sable Basilisk.

Bond is relieved to find that Basilisk is a younger, less rambling researcher. A law firm representing Blofeld has contacted the College of Arms to find proof that Blofeld is really Monsieur le Comte Balthazar de Bleuville. Basilisk has been researching the possible connection, and the Secret Service sent Bond over after hearing the name.

Bond asks Basilisk for possible excuses to set up a personal meeting. Basilisk mentions that certain families have family traits or resemblances. The Bleuilles have no lobes on their ears. Basilisk suggests that Bond can meet with Blofeld as a representative of the College of Arms conducting an interview, in part to see if Blofeld has earlobes. He tells Bond that people are awestruck with the idea of titles and assures him that Blofeld will fall for the pretense.

Chapter 6, Bond of Bond Street? and Chapter 7, The Hairy Heel of Achilles Analysis

Bond's first real lead to find Blofeld puts him in the middle of a new world. The College of Arms is completely foreign to the secret agent. While Basilisk describes the people he deals with as easily sucked in to the idea that they might be related to counts or barons or lords, Bond himself seems completely immune to the lure of aristocracy. The desire to be, officially, a count has led Blofeld to give away his position already, and Basilisk says that this is Blofeld's Achilles' heel, his weak spot. Much as Bond is immune to the lure of money for money's sake, as evidenced by his refusal to marry Tracy for her



father's money, Bond is immune to the lure of aristocratic position and title. He barely listens as Griffon Or tries to tie him to a baronetcy.

Bond does learn his family motto in this chapter: The World is not Enough. Although Bond is immune to so many things that tempt average people, Bond does have desires. He desires a perfect life with Tracy, and he desires infinite thrills, risk, and danger. His desires are harder to fulfill than more usual ones. Because Bond's standards and desires are so high, for him, the world will truly never be enough.



Chapter 8, Fancy Cover and Chapter 9, Irma La not So Douce

Chapter 8, Fancy Cover and Chapter 9, Irma La not So Douce Summary

Bond explains his plan to his superior, M. Bond will use the identity of a friend of Sable Basilisk's named Sir Hilary Bray. Sir Hilary is similar in age and appearance to Bond, and he lives out in the woods as a naturalist. Sir Hilary's family tree is intended to impress Blofeld. Bond will lead Blofeld on about documenting his aristocratic title, and hopefully, Bond will be able to convince Blofeld to leave Switzerland. Then, the Secret Service can capture him. M reluctantly approves the plan.

Bond spends his time learning about coats of arms and genealogy, and Basilisk successfully arranges a meeting. Blofeld seems taken with the idea of being a count. Bond prepares to leave on December 22, and they decide that he should travel "clean", without any tools or weapons, in case he is searched. Bond's superiors review the danger Bond is facing. He could easily be killed. Bond reviews his final preparations and fondly thinks of seeing Tracy again sometime in the future. The night of the 21st, he finalizes his packing, drinks four vodkas, and finally goes to sleep, sedated by alcohol.

Leaving for Switzerland, Bond is uncomfortable in his role as Sir Hilary, but he decides that he should simply act as himself, not as he thinks the titled gentry should act. After all, Sir Hilary himself is not what Bond would imagine a baronet to be like. At the airport, Irma Bunt, Blofeld's secretary, meets Bond. She is cold and unappealing. She leads Bond into a helicopter, and they fly across the Alps toward a mysterious destination.

Bond tracks their location as they fly. Finally, they land on an Alp called Piz Gloria. Piz Gloria contains a ritzy ski resort and Blofeld's scientific research station, supposedly researching allergies. Bond pretends not to ski or speak any languages but English. Irma establishes Bond in a room at the research station and explains that the doors cannot be opened from the inside. She arranges for Bond to meet with Blofeld the next day at 11 o'clock. As Bond unpacks, he notes that the room is under surveillance; there is a camera in the ceiling.

Chapter 8, Fancy Cover and Chapter 9, Irma La not So Douce Analysis

Chapter 8 details Bond's cover and the studying and preparation for his role. This interlude builds suspense for what is to come, since his superiors detail the dangers to Bond. If he's detected, Blofeld will surely kill him. Even if Bond's cover is not blown, Blofeld may decide to kill "Sir Hillary" once he's done with him.



Bond's dependence on alcohol is again highlighted in this chapter. Whether Bond is vacationing, embroiled in trouble, or preparing for a fight, he uses alcohol to modify his moods. Here, Bond uses alcohol to soothe his nerves before a potentially hazardous mission.

Chapter 9, titled "Irma La Douce", is named after a play about a prostitute named Irma La Douce, or Irma the Sweet. Fleming uses this pop-culture reference and turns it around to point out how un-sweet and un-soft Blofeld's Irma is. Note that as well as being villainous, Irma is ugly. In the world of James Bond, physical beauty reflects inner goodness, and physical deformity or ugliness reflects inner ugliness. This allows Fleming to clearly separate the bad guys from the good guys.



Chapter 10, Ten Gorgeous Girls

Chapter 10, Ten Gorgeous Girls Summary

Bond goes down to the bar for drinks before dinner. He meets the patients at the allergy clinic, ten beautiful, innocent, and slightly stupid girls from all across the British Isles who are only known by their first names. Bond orders whiskey. He befriends Ruby, one of the girls, who helps introduce him to the others as they chatter away. Bond breaks the ice by playing a bar game with the girls, where each player in turn burns a hole in a napkin holding a coin. Whoever burns the hole that makes the coin drop loses. Bond throws the game to assure his friendship with the girls.

Bond reflects that Piz Gloria is the perfect cover. An elite skiing club will bring in plenty of money, and meanwhile, the high alpine setting provides natural protection. The seemingly reputable research clinic provides good cover for whatever Blofeld is planning. Bond tells Irma Bunt that her surname might be related to the Brontë dukedom. Bunt, excited, reveals personal details about her background.

Dinner is delicious, and the girls show definite preferences for certain foods. One dotes on chicken, and another loves potatoes. When Bond tries to discover Ruby's last name, he is sharply cut off by Irma Bunt. The patients are not allowed to share their last names or gossip in private. Bond takes stock of the men working at Piz Gloria. They look like hardened criminals from across Europe, definitely candidates for a Blofeld criminal organization. After dinner, he goes to his room to think over what he's seen. Later that night, he is awakened by a soft sound like voices coming from far away.

Chapter 10, Ten Gorgeous Girls Analysis

Piz Gloria is the center of Blofeld's plot. Bond has penetrated it, but now he must gather as much information as possible and analyze what he's seeing. A mystery surrounds the ten beautiful women. Why do they eat so heavily? Why are they attracted to different foods? Why can't they reveal their names? Why are their doors locked at night? Why are there cameras in the rooms? What is the mysterious noise that Bond hears at night? So far, Bond can only passively gather information.

In Bond's world, the ten patients could only be beautiful women. Although there's no reason the patients should particularly be young, lovely girls, it is part of Bond's fantasy existence that gorgeous women surround him. The girls are contrasted with Piz Gloria's staff, hardened, criminal men from across Europe.



Chapter 11, Death for Breakfast

Chapter 11, Death for Breakfast Summary

The next morning, a horrible scream awakens Bond. He looks out the window and sees one of the Piz Gloria employees walking back to the main buildings. Bond calls for an attendant and asks about the scream. The man claims there was an accident, but the story is fishy. Bond does some exercising, building up his skiing muscles in case a quick escape is needed. He showers, breakfasts, and opens his window. He overhears the girls talking. He learns that one of the men had sexually assaulted one of the girls, and that man is now dead. The official story is that he fell down the bob-sled run, but Bond is certain he was pushed. That kind of horrible death is right up Blofeld's alley.

At 11 o'clock, Bond goes to meet Blofeld. When he meets the man, he is unsure what to think. Physically, this is not the same Blofeld that Bond has seen before. He is tall, with long hands and feet, but there the resemblance ends. Blofeld has no earlobes, is much thinner, with a different mouth and nose. The right side of his nose is deformed. He wears green contact lenses.

When Blofeld asks what necessitated the personal visit, Bond explains about the lobeless ears of the Bleuville family. He says that this feature makes it likely that Blofeld is a count, as he claims. Still, Bond says, he must carefully document the family tree, but he leads Blofeld to believe that the outcome is practically certain. Blofeld is pleased at the prospect of being officially named a count.

Chapter 11, Death for Breakfast Analysis

Chapter 11 first creates near certainty in the reader's mind that Bond is on the track of the real Blofeld by describing the horrifying death of one of Piz Gloria's employees who maltreated one of the patients. Bond knows that Blofeld is a ruthless and bloody criminal, and the terrifying death, skimming down the mountain at high speed, seems completely in character. This death also foreshadows Bond's future adventures fleeing down the mountain.

In the next breath, Fleming casts doubt on Blofeld's identity. The man Bond meets with in no way resembles the Blofeld known to the Secret Service from previous adventures. Bond expects the man's appearance to be changed, but it is changed truly beyond recognition. Still, the mark of physical deformity on Blofeld's nose signals, in Bond's reality, that this man is a criminal.



Chapter 12, Two Near Misses

Chapter 12, Two Near Misses Summary

Bond begins the exhausting cover of detailing a family tree for the count. His room has been searched, and he's glad that he brought no tools. His momentary doubt of Blofeld's identity passes. Certainly, he must be on the right track. When Bond tires of his work, he takes a walk around the ski resort. He sees one of the men working on some skis, and he spies something interesting—pieces of plastic. Bond palms one to use to open door locks, but unknown to Bond, the man notices that it's gone.

Bond tours the ski area and tries to memorize the paths down the mountain, in case he needs a quick escape. When Irma comes to get Bond for lunch, he notices that her attitude is cold. Quickly, he pulls out the piece of plastic, confiding that he borrowed it as a ruler and saying he hopes that was okay. At lunch, Bond flirts with Ruby, but Irma blocks any conversation about the allergy treatments. Then, a man comes up to the table and asks if Bond is Sir Hilary Bray.

Bond has feared this situation, running into an acquaintance of Sir Hilary's. In quiet tones, Bond tells the man that Sir Hilary is his cousin who died recently, and that Bond inherited the title and shares the family name. Bond doesn't think Irma heard most of the conversation. He tells her that the man mistook Bond for his cousin. It is a near escape.

Chapter 12, Two Near Misses Analysis

Fleming uses dramatic irony to build suspense in this chapter. Most of the story is narrated from the point of view of James Bond. The narration is in third person, but only Bond's thoughts, ideas, and observations are shared with the reader. However, Fleming briefly pulls away from Bond's point of view to show the reader that the Piz Gloria employee has noticed that one of the plastic strips is missing. The reader is filled with fear, while Bond seems blissfully unaware that he's in danger. He is only pleased to have acquired such a useful tool.

The reader's knowledge builds suspense, until the slightest clue from Irma makes Bond aware that there is a problem. His quick thinking seems to save him, this time. Then, another dangerous situation follows immediately, emphasizing that Bond's situation is anything but secure.



Chapter 13, Princess Ruby?

Chapter 13, Princess Ruby? Summary

Bond writes a letter to Sable Basilisk, using veiled language to report what's happened so far. He is certain the letter will be read, and hopes it will not be destroyed. Then, he cuts off two pieces of the plastic strip to use as door openers and marks the rest off in inches to complete his cover story of borrowing it as a ruler. Bond works all day on the genealogy and then hears a knock on his door.

Ruby leads Bond to the bathroom, telling him what he already suspects—that the rooms are bugged. Then, she reveals the object of her clandestine visit. Her family, she believes, is related to the royal family. Her name is Windsor! Bond uses the genealogy cover to gather information about Ruby's family. He finds that Ruby comes from a family of chicken farmers. She was allergic to chickens, and after taking the treatment, she loves chickens now. Bond arranges to meet her again, at night, and he kisses her. He gives her one of the pieces of plastic to open the doors.

Bond goes down to the bar for drinks before dinner. He speaks to one of the girls. She's from a potato farming family and had an allergy to potatoes. She, too, has been cured. She lets it slip that she's been learning techniques to improve potato crops, and she also reveals her last name: O'Neill. Bond is ushered away by Irma, but he vows to find out the identities of all the girls, especially since they're kept secret. He plays the bar game with the girls again, and then he casually asks about going into town. The answer, as expected, is a firm no. He's not allowed off the mountain.

Chapter 13, Princess Ruby? Analysis

Bond's cover as a genealogical researcher pays off. The girls are anxious to tell him their names so that they can find out if they're related to gentry. At the same time, Bond doesn't know why he needs this information. To all appearances, despite the secrecy, Blofeld is legitimately curing allergies. The more he learns, the more mysterious it seems that this seemingly praiseworthy work is so shrouded in mystery.

Bond also begins to romance Ruby. She is not too bright, but is very beautiful and infatuated with the idea of being related to the royal Windsors. Bond chastises himself for taking advantage of her, but this doesn't stop him from sweet-talking and seducing her. Bond doesn't spare a thought for Tracy. Seducing Ruby is part of his exotic job as a spy.



Chapter 14, Sweet Dreams—Sweet Nightmare!

Chapter 14, Sweet Dreams—Sweet Nightmare! Summary

Bond pretends to go to bed, but then he sneaks out of his room using the stolen plastic and sneaks into Ruby's room. He finds her in bed, naked, and he makes love to her. When she asks if he loves her, he avoids the question, covering with a compliment. He promises to investigate her name and make her a family tree, but he tells her that she's probably not related to the royal family.

Just as Bond is drifting to sleep, he hears a bell. It is the allergy treatment. Bond listens as a tape begins playing, using soothing noises and hypnotic speech which praises chickens and tries to create positive associations with chickens. He now knows that the mysterious treatment is hypnosis. Bond sneaks back to his room.

The next day, the weather has changed. It's going to snow. At breakfast, Bond learns that the count wants to meet again at 11 o'clock. At the meeting, Bond shows the count the work he's done so far. He gathers some information about the count's parents and grandparents. They discuss filling in the connections between Blofeld's known history and the recorded history of the Bleuilles. Then, the count proposes to bribe Bond to authenticate "evidence". Blofeld is playing into Bond's hand. Then, they are rudely interrupted. Two guards usher in a bloodied man. Unfortunately, Bond recognizes him as a Secret Service operative from Zurich.

Chapter 14, Sweet Dreams—Sweet Nightmare! Analysis

At last, Bond's investigation is making progress. Bond consummates his relationship with Ruby. Although their tryst is under false pretenses, it is portrayed as a beautiful experience for both of them. Bond may lie to women and seduce them, but he does not injure them. From this experience, he gains valuable insight into the methods the Blofeld is using in his "treatments". Unfortunately, it sheds no light on Blofeld's ultimate plan.

Bond also gains Blofeld's confidence. The man trusts Bond enough to bribe him. That should make it easy for Bond to lure Blofeld out of Switzerland, to someplace where the Secret Service can access him. Unfortunately, just at this moment of success, Bond comes face to face with failure. The guards burst in with someone Bond knows, another agent. This man has clearly been caught. Will he break Bond's cover?



Chapter 15, The Heat Increases

Chapter 15, The Heat Increases Summary

The captured agent is Shaun Campbell, a friend of Bond's, who does not know about Bond's cover story or mission. The guards caught him following one of them. Campbell looks up and sees Bond. He calls Bond by name and begs Bond to confirm that Campbell works for Universal Export, the cover company for the British Secret Service. Bond has no choice but to deny knowing Campbell. Campbell will surely be killed, but if Bond tried to save him, they would probably both be killed.

Now, Bond's cover is blown. He tries to play off the incident and indicates to the count that he's open to bribery to authenticate the count's heritage. On the way back to his room, Bond peeks in one of the laboratories and sees specimens in test tubes under red lights. Bond knows that Campbell will soon give in to torture. He has little to work with, but he begins to plan his escape.

Ruby visits Bond in his room. The girls have been ordered not to talk to Bond. He makes up a story about being a disrupting influence and tells Ruby that he's leaving. Ruby tells him that the girls are leaving in another week, and he gets their full names from her. Bond kisses her again, promising to see her back in England.

At dinner, the girls studiously avoid Bond. He pretends not to notice and asks Irma for snow goggles to protect his eyes and some schnapps for his room. After lunch, he steals a pair of gloves and scouts out a pair of skis. Finally, he retires to his room.

Chapter 15, The Heat Increases Analysis

Bond is on thin ice in Chapter 15. He knows that he can't stay in Piz Gloria, and his only hope is to escape down the mountain. He gathers all the information he can and begins planning his escape, pulling together the tools he'll need to ski away in the night: snow goggles, gloves, skis, and liquor. Bond's reliance on liquor surfaces again, as he counts it as one of his necessities. In the cold weather, it will have the added bonus of keeping him warm.

Bond is ruthless in promising Ruby that their relationship will continue once they both return to England. He has no feeling for Ruby. She is a tool that he uses as part of his job as a spy, just as she is a tool that Blofeld is using as part of his plan. Blofeld cures her allergy as a side effect of using Ruby, and Bond sleeps with Ruby as a side effect of using her for information. In Bond's world, there are no negative consequences to his necessary but self-centered actions. In this male fantasy, Bond enjoys the pleasure of a one-night stand while being able to justify it as being in the line of duty. Ruby, the author implies, although infatuated, will not be seriously hurt by the tryst.



Chapter 16, Downhill Only

Chapter 16, Downhill Only Summary

Bond waits for his opportunity to escape, hoping that Campbell will hold out against the torture long enough. He is fairly certain that he's safe until bedtime. Bond uses urine as invisible ink to record the girls' full names and homes in his passport in case he is killed and hides the gloves in his toilet.

At dinner, Bond eats and drinks heartily, fortifying himself for his ordeal. After dinner, he pretends to work. Finally, it is bedtime. He pretends to go to sleep, and then he gets up, silently, in the dark. He prepares himself with his ski clothes, gloves, and goggles. He puts his watch around his knuckles to use as a punching weapon.

Bond creeps to the reception area and, catching the guard unaware, kills him with his bare hands. The phone rings, and Bond answers it, pretending to be the guard. In German, another guard informs him that they're coming for the English man in ten minutes. Bond takes the man's keys and tosses them away to slow his pursuers. He finds the skis that he picked out earlier and painstakingly fastens the bindings, keenly aware of the passing time. Finally, he puts on his gloves and skis down to the course.

Bond skis away as fast as possible, aware that the men will be after him soon. Then, he hears the cable car above his head. They are using it to chase him down the mountain. He expects a skier with a gun behind him. He doesn't expect the grenades that his pursuers begin lobbing from the cable car.

Chapter 16, Downhill Only Analysis

Bond escapes in the nick of time only to find himself in a high-speed chase down the mountains, complete with grenade explosions. The pace of the action increases, as Bond begins running for his life. Bond's undercover adventure has been marked by a series of highs and lows, as he narrowly escapes potential disaster after potential disaster. The treachery worsens until Bond's final escape, which promises to be the height of excitement and danger.

As terrifying and life-threatening as the situation is, Bond lives for these thrills. He feels his heart racing as the time for his escape nears. He can barely contain himself. Bond will later willingly return to Piz Gloria and reenact a similar race down the mountainside. He is addicted to risk and thrills.

The writer builds tension by having Bond barely escape his captors. In the scene where Bond is fastening his skis, the process of attaching boots to skis is described in painstaking detail. Bond must, with the threat of imminent danger bearing down on him, calm himself to complete this essential and time-consuming task. The reader goes

through the tension-filled process with Bond, always aware that death is right around the corner.



Chapter 17, Bloody Snow

Chapter 17, Bloody Snow Summary

Exhausted, Bond skis down the mountain. Two gunmen catch up to him, and bullets whiz past. He skis for his life. Suddenly, Bond realizes that he's on the wrong ski path. This is the black path, the most difficult one, and it's closed because of danger of avalanche. With all the gunfire and explosions, an avalanche will certainly occur. Suddenly, the sky bursts alive with fireworks. Bond realizes that it's the perfect cover for the gunfire. Then, he realizes that it's Christmas Eve. No one will question the celebration. At this moment, the avalanche breaks and begins roaring down the mountain after him.

Bond races toward the trees. He barely beats the thundering snow. Finally, he reaches the bottom of the mountain and finds that one of the gunman has come down the shorter path after him. He hopes the other one was caught in the avalanche. Bond skis as fast as he can toward the railway. The pursuer follows. A train is coming down the tracks. Racing it, Bond barely crosses the tracks in front of the engine. His pursuer isn't so lucky. He's caught by the train, which results in a burst of bloody snow.

Bond skis two miles to the nearest town, Samaden. He finds a fancy-dress Christmas celebration at a skating rink, and he buys a ticket and a mask. Bond is physically exhausted and nearly passes out. His pursuers will quickly trace where he's gone, and he has no method of escape. He has only the crowd to protect him. When it's time for the last dance of the evening, the party organizers try to rouse Bond to take part. He is pushed into the skating rink, barely able to stand. Then, Tracy appears. She takes hold of him, supporting him through the dance.

Chapter 17, Bloody Snow Analysis

The conclusion of Bond's skiing chase down the mountain is spectacularly bloody. Bond is at his lowest point. He is in no physical shape to escape further, and soon he will be caught. Just as when sudden failure stares him in the face during his highest points of success, at his lowest point, fate suddenly steps in to lift him up. Unexpectedly, Tracy appears. Now, Bond has an ally. Just as Bond saved Tracy from her suicide, Tracy will save Bond from his pursuers.

The setting of the snow-covered mountain, the fireworks, and the Christmas celebration lends an ironic tone to Bond's situation. In the midst of a night of peace and joy, Bond is caught in a deadly chase. The joyous party contrasts with Bond's desperate situation.



Chapter 18, Fork Left for Hell! and Chapter 19, Love for Breakfast

Chapter 18, Fork Left for Hell! and Chapter 19, Love for Breakfast Summary

Bond explains briefly to Tracy that men are after him. She has her white Lancia and reassures him that they can escape. She wraps Bond in her parka to disguise him. The men are waiting outside the gates. Tracy and Bond kiss to pass by undetected. Then, Tracy bundles him into her car. The men have recognized Bond, though. They take off in pursuit.

Tracy explains, as they race down the road, that her father had located Blofeld at Piz Gloria. He sent Tracy to the area to track down Bond. Tracy can't shake the pursuers, and her car is low on gas. They won't be able to drive to Zurich without stopping.

Tracy gets as far ahead of the pursuing car as she can. Then, Bond tells her to stop by a road sign in front of a bridge. He gets out and tells Tracy to drive across the road, out of sight. Bond turns the arrow of the road sign around so that it's facing the bridge that's out. In the dark, the speeding car turns at the arrow. The car breaks through the railing and falls into the ravine. Bond corrects the arrow, crosses the bridge, and rejoins Tracy. As they drive off to Zurich, Bond finally falls into sleep.

At the Zurich airport, Bond makes a report. He arranges for the ten girls to be stopped and held when they return to England and arranges to fly back to London himself to meet with M, the Secret Service science officer, and someone from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, to try to figure out Blofeld's scheme. Over breakfast, Bond proposes to Tracy, and she accepts. She leaves for Munich to wait for him. When he finishes his business, they'll be married.

Chapter 18, Fork Left for Hell! and Chapter 19, Love for Breakfast Analysis

The lengthy pursuit finally ends as Bond uses his ingenuity and his immediate environment to outwit the gunmen. The trick with the road sign is simple and deadly. During the chase, Bond has singlehandedly killed five or six of Blofeld's men, making a significant dent in his organization. More than that, Bond has overcome every obstacle to escape with valuable intelligence.

Tracy is completely calm under pressure. She accepts Bond's job, the danger he puts both of them in, and the act of killing. She takes his orders without question, and she is willing to do anything for him. In fact, although Tracy takes on the role of the savior, she is acting more as Bond's tool than as an independent agent. Like his secretary, Mary



Goodnight, Tracy acts as the assistant, awaiting Bond's every command. Like Ruby, Tracy acts as Bond's implement, fulfilling not her own goals, but Bond's.

Tracy is Bond's perfect woman. She quietly and loyally waits for him while he completes his adventures, and she's exactly where he needs her to be at the right moment, in order to whisk him out of trouble. Without hysterics or fuss, she does what he tells her and accepts everything that he's done. Tracy bends to Bond's every need, and so he asks her to marry him.



Chapter 20, Men Pantoufles

Chapter 20, Men Pantoufles Summary

Bond sleeps on the plane and has an anxiety dream about getting married. He dreams that he and Tracy, in evening dress, arrive at an elegant, ritzy party. Tracy is excited and happy while Bond is miserable. He is on display, like a prize. When he wakes, he reassures himself that life with Tracy will not be like his nightmare.

When Bond arrives in London, Mary Goodnight is waiting for him, even though it's Christmas day. She teases him about his uncouth appearance and explain that M, the Secret Service science expert, and a man from Agriculture and Fisheries will meet with Bond at M's house. Bond cleans up, dictates a report to Mary Goodnight, and prepares himself for the meeting.

At M's house, Bond finds M engaging in his hobby of painting watercolors of orchids. M reviews Bond's hastily prepared report but has no new ideas. M's servants have prepared a Christmas dinner, so M and Bond eat turkey and plum pudding. Bond pulls out one of the silver prizes traditionally embedded in plum pudding and finds it's a bachelor's button.

Chapter 20, Men Pantoufles Analysis

Mary Goodnight is completely devoted to Bond. Although it's Christmas day, Goodnight comes to meet Bond in the airport and spends the day preparing his report. She claims that she's glad to get out of her plans and that she hates turkey, but her attitude implies that her main purpose in life is to stand by Bond and do whatever he needs. As Bond's secretary, this is Goodnight's job, but in the fantasy world of James Bond, every attractive woman is somehow at Bond's bidding.

At the end of the chapter, Bond pulls a silver insignia of a bachelor out of his plum pudding. He thinks of Tracy and says to himself that he should have gotten the wedding ring. However, for the reader, the bachelor's button foreshadows that something will go wrong with Bond's marriage plans.



Chapter 21, The Man from Ag. and Fish. and Chapter 22, Something Called 'BW'

Chapter 21, The Man from Ag. and Fish. and Chapter 22, Something Called 'BW' Summary

Agent 501, who is the Secret Service science expert, and a man named Franklin, an expert in pest control from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, meet with M and Bond at M's house. The two scientists read Bond's report. 501 assures Bond and M that the girls' allergies are likely psychosomatic and can be cured by the type of hypnosis that Bond witnessed. He wonders who is financing Blofeld's operation, and reminds M that he previously suspected a Russian astronaut of being a perfect hypnosis subject and thought the Russians were using hypnosis in space training.

Mr. Franklin has more concrete suspicions. He checks the areas where the girls come from against a map and becomes even more convinced. Then, he presents information about an outbreak of fowl pest, an infectious and deadly turkey virus, among British turkeys. Three million turkeys have been destroyed because of the disease, and Britain had to import millions of turkeys for the holidays. The infection has been traced back to a livestock show, where turkeys from various farms were all infected. He suspects that the cause is biological warfare and explains that Britain's crops and livestock are at risk from biological contamination.

Franklin reads the others part of a US Senate paper covering biological warfare, or BW. It describes how infectious viruses or bacteria could be used to destroy a nation's food supply and cause economic ruin. Franklin believes that Britain is at more risk than the US, because Britain is such a small, contained area.

A girl who left Piz Gloria a month ago came from a turkey farming region and had been allergic to turkeys. Franklin suspects that after leaving Piz Gloria, she unwittingly infected the turkeys at the show, prompted by the hypnosis and training she received. The laboratory with the red lights that Bond saw supports Franklin's idea, since viruses should not be exposed to bright light. If the other ten girls do the same, Britain's agriculture could be ruined. Blofeld can short sell British currency to make a killing off the destruction of Britain's economy.

M arranges to stop the girls coming into the country and question the girl from the turkey farming region. Still, they must dispose of Blofeld. Bond has been formulating a plan, which includes a two-week leave of absence, and he outlines it to M. M reluctantly agrees.



Chapter 21, The Man from Ag. and Fish. and Chapter 22, Something Called 'BW' Analysis

The scientists finally put together the pieces of the puzzle that Bond has brought back from Piz Gloria. Although 501 has little to add, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has important information. The one girl who has already left Piz Gloria has caused a financial disaster for the turkey industry.

The author presents lengthy passages in official-sounding languages as part of a US Senate report on biological weapons. The dry, official language serves to make the danger sound more real, while the author has Franklin interrupt the presentation at intervals, adding his own commentary, to break up the text for the reader.

The report on biological weapons presents a bleak picture. If it weren't for Bond, this section implies, England could have been completely ruined. The country has been saved in the nick of time.



Chapter 23, Gauloises and Garlic and Chapter 24, Blood-Lift

Chapter 23, Gauloises and Garlic and Chapter 24, Blood-Lift Summary

Bond calls Tracy, who is in Munich preparing for their wedding. Bond is rushing through the marriage license through diplomatic circles. He tells her that he must finish his work, and they'll be married in a few days. Bond also calls Tracy's father and asks him for a wedding present, which he'll tell Draco about when they meet.

Bond flies to Marseilles, where he's met by a taxi driver who ushers him through customs, making jokes. The driver brings Bond to Draco. Tracy's father is effusive. He embraces Bond and congratulates him on the wedding. Then, Bond tells Draco everything about Blofeld and enlists his help to stop the villain once and for all. Draco agrees to this as his wedding present.

Bond insists that he must be with Draco and his men when they take down Blofeld. For Bond, this mission is personal. He needs to be in it at the end and take down his enemy. Reluctantly, Draco agrees. Draco brings in his men, and they plan the attack.

Draco has arranged a helicopter for the assault on Piz Gloria. Draco's organization paints it with red crosses and fake numbers. Bond and Draco eat sausage, bread, and a wine that Draco calls "Pis-de-Chat", or cat piss. The helicopter is loaded with weapons. The men are clothed in ski costumes labeled "Bundesalpenpolizei", a non-existent Swiss alp police force. The men take off in the helicopter, and the pilot prevaricates to the Swiss air patrol long enough for them to reach their destination.

Chapter 23, Gauloises and Garlic and Chapter 24, Blood-Lift Analysis

Bond and Draco, even though this is only their second meeting, have forged a manly bond based on mutual respect and understanding. Draco is willing to do whatever Bond wants, not merely because Bond is making his daughter happy, but also because under the skin, Bond and Draco are the same. Bond's similarity to Tracy's father is clearly a factor in her attraction to him.

Bond insists on going on this final, dangerous mission because he has made the conflict with Blofeld personal, not merely one professional spy doing his job against a professional international criminal. By making this mission personal, Bond is doing what he did at the baccarat table in the beginning of the book. He made his mission to get his money back personal, taking a sudden dislike to the player who defeated Tracy. In both instances, his desire for revenge leads him to take ultimate risks. At the casino, he risks

the rest of his winnings. In this chapter, he risks his life, but he also takes a more dire risk, one he will not understand until the end of the book.



Chapter 25, Hell's Delight, etc.

Chapter 25, Hell's Delight, etc. Summary

The helicopter approaches Piz Gloria, landing on its helicopter pad despite objections from the ground. The chopper is met by Blofeld's men. The Union Corse men on the helicopter introduce themselves as Swiss federal police investigating the trouble on Christmas Eve, but before the Piz Gloria men can decide what to do, Bond sees Blofeld making his escape.

When the Piz Gloria men see Bond, they know they're up against an enemy. Gunfire ensues. Bond leaves the fight to Draco and his men, while he chases after Blofeld. Blofeld heads towards the bobsled run and starts down the mountain on a single-man bobsled. Bond quickly finds another sled and chases after him.

Bond's sled whizzes down the mountain. He jumps over Dead Man's Leap and flies into Whizz-Bang Straight, where his sled reaches sickening speeds. He desperately tries to slow himself to make it through Battling S, following in Blofeld's tracks. The cloth and skin is torn off his elbows as he screeches against the sides of the track.

Bond sees Blofeld ahead of him. He struggles to get his gun, but Blofeld disappears into the next feature, Hell's Delight. After he's over the wall of snow, Bond takes two shots at his prey before Blofeld disappears again, and Bond endures The Bone-Shaker, bumping waves across the tracks. When Bond finally comes out again, he sees a grenade lying in wait for him. Bond is thrown off the track in the explosion and loses consciousness.

When Bond awakes, he hears explosions from the main buildings. Draco's men are destroying Piz Gloria. Gingerly, Bond heads down the mountain in his broken sled. As he nears his destination, he sees the helicopter with Draco's men in it taking off from the mountain. At the bottom, Bond is met by firemen, responding to the explosions, and pretends to be a tourist who was caught in the disaster. Back in Zurich, Bond sends a message to headquarters informing them of the mixed results. Piz Gloria is destroyed, but Blofeld has escaped.

Chapter 25, Hell's Delight, etc. Analysis

Bond's race down the bobsled run replays some of the excitement of his escape down the ski run. This chase scene also calls to mind the death the morning after Bond's arrival in Piz Gloria. The man who Blofeld orders killed is pushed down the bobsled run. Bond thinks at the time how horrible a death it is, speeding down the mountain in the ice and snow. At this conclusion of Bond's fight against Blofeld, Bond must relive the nightmare of that man's death. Bond has a chance to survive, but he must race down the deadly, icy slope.



Unlike Bond's escape on the ski run, Bond is the pursuer in the bobsled chase. He has put himself in the position of Blofeld's personal enemy. He is not here merely to break up the criminal organization of Piz Gloria. Instead, Bond is here to destroy Blofeld personally. Blofeld, as in Bond's previous adventure, escapes.



Chapter 26, Happiness without a Shadow? and Chapter 27, All the Time in the World

Chapter 26, Happiness without a Shadow? and Chapter 27, All the Time in the World Summary

Tracy meets Bond at Munich. She scolds him for putting himself in such danger but then recants, telling him that she loves him because he's a dangerous man. Bond learns that the girls carrying biological weapons were stopped at the airport before they could do any damage. Tracy's father tells Bond that two of his men were killed. They did away with Blofeld's men, but they did not find Blofeld or Irma.

Tracy dresses Bond's wounds and tells him that she wants to wait until their wedding night to make love. They spend the next day preparing for the wedding. Bond chases all around the city looking for the perfect engagement ring and has an impromptu bachelor outing with his taxi driver after they find the ring.

Tracy's father offers Bond the million-pound dowry he offered earlier, and angrily, Bond refuses it. He doesn't want everything to be easy; he wants the thrill of getting what he needs on his own. Bond agrees to allow Draco to help if he or Tracy are ever in serious need.

Bond and Tracy get married on New Year's Day. Draco is so happy that he can't resist embracing Bond again. The newlyweds finally disentangle themselves and head off to Tracy's Lancia for their honeymoon. Bond takes down the decorations the consul's wife has put on the car, and the consul apologizes. He tells Bond that a reporter was asking about the wedding earlier.

As Bond and Tracy drive off with the convertible top down, a car approaches behind them. Bond tells Tracy to let the car pass, since they have "all the time in the world". As the car passes, a shot rings out. The car flies off the road. Bond is thrown clear, but Tracy's head has crashed into the steering wheel. As a terrified policeman comes to help, Bond holds his unmoving bride in his arms, repeating that they have all the time in the world.

Chapter 26, Happiness without a Shadow? and Chapter 27, All the Time in the World Analysis

Bond's wedding to Tracy is too good to be true. Because Blofeld escaped, Bond's business is not truly finished. Because Bond made this fight personal and had to be in at the finish, Blofeld makes it personal as well. Bond does not pick up on the clue that a



mysterious reporter was asking about the time of his wedding. Bond does not recognize Irma, who he sees at a distance during the drive. Perhaps worst of all, Bond allows being married to change his behavior. He slows down on the road and lets another car pass by, something that's against the character of the competitive, thrill-loving Bond. Ultimately, Bond cannot both be married and live his exciting spy's life. He pays the price of desiring marriage when Tracy is destroyed at the end of the book. Bond doesn't even get a wedding night.

The phrase "all the time in the world" echoes ironically at the end of the book. It brings to mind the Bond family motto introduced earlier: The world is not enough. Bond says to Tracy that they have all the time in the world, but truly in this instance, the world is not enough. Bond and Tracy are out of time, and Bond must rejoin his life in espionage with a personal tragedy, and also with a personal grudge to revenge against Blofeld.



Characters

James Bond, Agent 007

James Bond, a spy for Her Majesty's Secret Service, leads a dangerous and exciting life. He is a fantasy character, living not in the real world, but in a world of masculine daydreams. In Bond's world, the thrill of danger outweighs the path of safety. In Bond's world, one man's risky behavior will always foil the plot of the evil villain. In Bond's world, there are no gray areas. There is only good versus evil. Bond is good, and therefore his enemy is evil. In Bond's world, women are beautiful, sensual, sexually active, and sexually willing. Women are also servile, fulfilling Bond's needs and responding to his whims. This world makes Bond's life a fantasy life, but ultimately, Bond exists to give the reader vicarious thrills.

Bond's fantasy persona has a few cracks. Bond is an alcoholic, drinking to both calm his nerves and get himself through everyday occasions and extreme situations. Bond is also addicted to danger. He puts himself in harm's way when it's not necessary, as when he goes after Blofeld personally at the end of the novel. Bond is driven by a desire for revenge, and he becomes not only Blofeld's professional adversary, but his personal enemy as well.

Bond is self-centered. He needs to have everything perfect, including his wife-to-be. He must have the best car, the best liquor, and the best food, even though he denies being a gourmet. More than that, he must have the best excitement and thrills. The Bond family motto is "The World is not Enough". It's an easy motto to apply to James Bond, for whom nothing seems to be enough.

La Comtesse Teresa di Vincenzo (Tracy)

Tracy is the beautiful and tragic daughter of an English governess and the head of the French mafia. At the beginning of the novel, she is suicidal. After her mother died, Tracy began partying with the idle rich. She married a count who ran off with her money and left her with a child. She seemed happy for a while until her child died of spinal meningitis.

Tracy's mother was desperately attracted to dangerous men, and Tracy has inherited this quality. In James Bond, she sees something to live for. Bond only meets Tracy twice before proposing to her. He falls for Tracy because she's his "perfect woman". She can only fulfill this role by being something slightly less than a complete person. Like her mother, she devotes herself totally to her man and follows him everywhere, completely accepting his lifestyle. Without Bond she has nothing to live for, so she is living only for him. Because Bond is basically self-centered, he needs a woman who revolves around him. Bond's status as the heroic spy would be compromised by a woman who had independent needs and desires.



Even though Tracy seems perfect, Bond still worries about what marriage will do for his independent life as a spy. In reality, the reader finds it difficult to believe that Bond's life could remain unchanged by marriage. When Tracy is shot, Bond is left with tragic memories of a perfect love. He never has to face the realities of sharing his life with another person.

Ernst Stavro Blofeld

Blofeld is the villain who James Bond has spent the last year trying to track down. In a previous adventure, Bond foiled Blofeld's plan to blackmail Western governments with nuclear weapons and broke up his criminal organization, SPECTRE. At the beginning of the novel, Bond believes that Blofeld is dead, but he soon finds out that Blofeld has bought a peak in the Alps and is re-forming SPECTRE. Blofeld, probably backed by the Soviet government, is busy planning a biological assault on England's crops, using unwitting girls from Britain's farming communities.

The reader never learns much about Blofeld's character. He simply remains a villain for Bond to fight, obscured behind his defenses. Fleming carefully avoids giving the reader insight into Blofeld's character because any sympathy for Blofeld would blur the carefully drawn line between good and evil. Bond is free to kill without giving the reader moral qualms, because his enemy is clearly evil. Although Blofeld has been completely transformed, physically, through plastic surgery, his nose is decayed. This physical malformation becomes a symbol of his twisted internal nature. In the end, Blofeld escapes, giving Bond a personal vendetta to pursue in future adventures.

Marc-Ange Draco (The Capu)

Draco is the Capu, or head of the Union Corse, the French mafia. He is also Tracy's father. Bond and Draco become instant friends when they first meet, although Draco has Bond brought to him by force. Draco partners with Bond to destroy Blofeld's operation on Piz Gloria.

Mary Goodnight

Goodnight is Bond's devoted new secretary. There's a pool among the Secret Service about who will bed her, but Bond has dropped out of the running since meeting Tracy.

Griffon Or

Griffon Or is a researcher at the College of Arms, specializing in tracking down genealogical lineages, coats of arms, and gentry titles. He is rambling and obsessed with his subject.



Sable Basilisk

Sable Basilisk is a young researcher at the College of Arms who sets up a way for Bond to locate and meet with Blofeld.

M

M is Bond's boss in the Secret Service. M grudgingly agrees to Bond's dangerous plans to track down and defeat Blofeld.

Irma Bunt

Irma Bunt is Blofeld's personal secretary, an unappealing and evil woman who seems to be in Blofeld's complete confidence.

Ruby Windsor

Ruby is one of Blofeld's "patients" at Piz Gloria. Ruby is a beautiful, young, not-too-bright farm girl who was repulsed by chickens. Blofeld's hypnosis treatment removes her aversion to chickens but also programs her to unleash a biological weapon on Britain's chicken livestock.

Shaun Campbell

Campbell is a friend of Bond's, number 2 in the Swiss operation of the British Secret Service. Campbell is caught following one of Blofeld's men. Campbell accidentally blows Bond's cover.

501

Agent 501 is the Secret Service science expert. Bond and M call him in to review the intelligence Bond gathered at Piz Gloria and try to determine the nature of Blofeld's plot.

Franklin

Franklin is an expert in pest control and a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Bond and M call him in to review the intelligence Bond gathered at Piz Gloria and try to determine the nature of Blofeld's plot.



Objects/Places

The White Lancia Flaminia Zagato Spyder

Tracy drives a very fast, sporty Lancia convertible. Her superb handling of this car first attracts Bond, and later, Tracy drives Bond to safety in her Lancia after he escapes Piz Gloria.

Union Corse

The Union Corse is the French mafia. Tracy's father is the head of the Union, and the Union helps Bond destroy the establishment on Piz Gloria.

Universal Export

Universal Export is the cover company for the British Secret Service. All of the underworld organizations seem to know that Universal Export is a cover for the Secret Service.

Synchrhone

A Synchrhone is a pager, used to contact secret agents in emergencies.

The College of Arms

The College of Arms is a branch of the British government that tracks genealogy, coats of arms, and titles. Blofeld gives himself away by writing to the College of Arms to try to prove he is a count.

Bedlam

Bedlam is the code name for the Secret Service operation to track down Blofeld.

The World Is not Enough

At the College of Arms, Bond learns that the Bond family motto is "The World is not Enough".



Monsieur le Comte Balthazar de Bleuville

Blofeld wants to prove that his real title is Monsieur le Comte Balthazar de Bleuville.

Piz Gloria

Piz Gloria is the alpine peak where Blofeld has established a ski resort as a cover for his evil plot. Under cover of allergy research, Blofeld uses Piz Gloria to hypnotize young, attractive farm girls to destroy Britain's crops with biological weapons.

SPECTRE

SPECTRE is the villainous organization run by Blofeld. Bond broke up SPECTRE in his last adventure, but Blofeld has reformed the organization on Piz Gloria.

Samaden

The nearest town to Piz Gloria. Bond skis to Samaden when he escapes Piz Gloria after his cover is blown, and he finds Tracy there.



Themes

Risk-Taking

James Bond is a risk taker. He is not lured by offers of money, since he easily refuses Draco's offer of a million pounds to marry his daughter. He is not lured by a title, since he ignores Griffon Or's intimation that Bond might be related to a baronetcy. In fact, Bond will not succumb to any normal temptations, which makes him a valuable asset as a spy. However, Bond is both addicted to and lured by danger and risk.

In the beginning of the novel, Bond is considering leaving his position as an agent of the Secret Service because his job has lost its excitement and thrill. Bond lives only for the extreme highs that come with extreme danger. He risks all his money at the casino table. He throws all his winnings back to the table for the chance to win back half. Even Bond's proposal of marriage is a kind of thrilling risk, especially since he's only met Tracy twice.

Bond's risk taking pays off, allowing him to gather valuable information, but it also leads to disaster. Because Bond can't forgo the dangerous task of finally taking down Blofeld, he ultimately makes the villain a personal enemy. In turn, this ultimately leads Blofeld to attack him and Tracy. However, looked at another way, Bond's mistake is taking too few risks. In the beginning of the novel, at the casino, Bond takes a risk to win back his money. However, when he plays his hand, he plays it safe and does not draw a card. That's when he loses. Bond's situation with Tracy is similar. He relaxes his risk-taking after his wedding. Instead of racing down the roadway, he allows another car to pass him. Because of this lack of action and thrills, the villain in the other car can unleash the fatal shot.

An Ideal Life

Bond always reaches for the ideal, the best of all possible things. He is a connoisseur of women, food, cars, and pleasures. Nothing can satisfy this thirst for the ideal for long, especially when it comes to women. The ideal life must include danger, excitement, and struggle, and it is not possible to reconcile this with marriage and family.

However, when Bond meets Tracy, he sees a possibility for a completely ideal life. Tracy is entirely accommodating and submissive. She is a seeker of thrills herself, an expert driver with an amazing car. She bets money she doesn't have at the casino, and she is sexually free enough to experience physical passion. More than that, Tracy wants Bond to lead a completely dangerous life. She does not want to entangle or restrict him. She merely wants to be there for him and help him in any way possible. She is, from Bond's point of view, ideal. She will center her life completely around Bond.

The idea of an ideal marriage for James Bond, international spy, is too ideal, though. Bond needs to be off-kilter, always on the edge of danger. A happy, contented home life



is completely at odds with the life of risk and danger that Bond lives and craves. The ideal life must be shattered at the end of the novel because it cannot be fulfilled. No marriage with any amount of stability could ever be an ideal life for James Bond. The true ideal includes only the heights of passion and the depths of tragedy.

Revenge

James Bond makes his fight against Blofeld more than just a fight of the British government, as represented by one of its secret agents, against an international criminal. In a similar way, when Tracy loses her money at the baccarat table and Bond covers her bet, Bond makes his gamble personal against the other player, a man Bond does not know. Suddenly, the other player is a "monster".

Bond's drive to personalize conflicts escalates those conflicts. If Bond had not considered his bet a personal fight, perhaps he would have walked away from this table with twenty million old francs. If Bond had not considered his fight against Blofeld a personal fight, perhaps Blofeld never would have sought personal revenge. There is no reason, except a manly need to exact personal vengeance, for Bond to personally accompany Draco and his men on the final mission after Blofeld. Bond's presence there fulfills Bond's personal drives but has tragic consequences. Blofeld still escapes; meanwhile, Bond's presence alerts the Piz Gloria thugs that they're under attack. Blofeld recognizes Bond and marks him as an enemy. Bond is the ultimate loser when Blofeld takes personal revenge for what amounts to a personal attack. Revenge cannot be exacted without escalation.

The attack on Tracy at the end of the novel is another level of escalation. Bond has already made his fight against Blofeld personal. Now, this fight is primed to become an epic saga of revenge. Blofeld has robbed Bond of the thing nearest and dearest to him. The ending of the book clearly indicates the direction of the next adventure. Blofeld has become an arch-enemy, and he is still at large. Bond must destroy him—the final escalation of his revenge.



Style

Point of View

Throughout most of the novel, the narrator is a third-person, semi-omniscient narrator from the perspective of James Bond. The reader follows along with the story from James Bond's mind, seeing only the clues that Bond is exposed to and understanding only what Bond himself understands. In this way, the reader is absorbed into the mind and character of James Bond, who is truly the center of the novel.

However, the author uses shifts in point of view to build dramatic irony and suspense at key points during the novel. At the beginning of the novel, the author shifts the point of view slightly to tell the reader that Bond is being followed. The reader knows not only that Bond is being followed, but also that Bond does not know.

Later, the writer uses the same technique when Bond steals a piece of plastic at the Piz Gloria ski resort. The reader learns, through a shift in point of view, that the worker has missed a piece of plastic. Again, dramatic irony builds suspense. The third significant instance of this technique comes at the end of the story. In a shift of point of view, the reader learns that a mysterious woman is following Bond. From the description, the reader can infer that she is Irma and that Bond and Tracy are in danger. Bond is unaware, and the discrepancy in awareness creates dramatic irony and suspense.

Setting

The novel's setting jet-sets around Europe, much as Bond does, creating an exotic atmosphere of international travel. Bond begins his adventure at a French seaside casino. Immediately, Bond's lifestyle is contrasted to the family life at the seaside and his own childhood. By implication, Bond's dangerous life is contrasted to the idea of marriage, embodied by Tracy and driving Bond's romance.

The main setting of the novel is Piz Gloria, the peak of one of the Swiss Alps. This setting is at once remote, exotic, and rich. The people who vacation there are wealthy. The remote point makes it necessary to travel by helicopter, another exotic note. The snowy setting also creates physical danger when Bond must escape.

Another important element of the setting is the time. The novel takes place between Christmas and New Year's, and this holiday setting provides both visually appealing trappings such as the Christmas Eve fancy dress party and the fireworks, as well as an ironic contrast to the bloodletting and danger.

Fleming's settings are very concerned with contrast. Christmas celebrations, seaside vacationers, stodgy genealogical researchers, and high-class skiers all contrast with the sinister danger of an international criminal conspiracy.



Language and Meaning

Fleming uses a highly articulate vocabulary throughout the novel. In the resignation letter that Bond composes, the language is even more ornate, showing that Bond aspires to greatness in everything, even his language. Throughout the novel, European words and phrases, predominantly French and German, are interspersed with the English dialogue and descriptions. The international language reminds the reader of the exotic international lifestyle that Bond is living.

Fleming also uses descriptive language to convey meaning. Bond's liquors, his cars, and his food are lovingly described in great detail, emphasizing the elegance of everything Bond comes in contact with. When the scientists are putting together the pieces of the puzzle and begin to discuss biological warfare, Fleming again uses language to convey meaning. He uses scientific and official-sounding language to add a note of realism and a note of danger to the US Senate paper on biological warfare.

At the same time, in scenes of physical conflict and danger, such as Bond's chase down the mountain, Fleming uses short sentences and exclamations to add a sense of urgency to the building action.

Structure

The first fifth of the novel is concerned with Bond's romance with Tracy. He has been on the trail of Blofeld for a year, and the trail has gone cold. His only adventure is meeting the exciting woman, Tracy, and her criminal but likeable father. This adventure is structured to draw the reader into the book. By beginning at the moment that Bond is kidnapped and then flashing back to the previous day as Bond reviews his meeting with Tracy in his mind, Fleming creates tension that balances the story of the romance.

The novel then leaves the romance behind as Bond gets on the trail of Blofeld. The story of Bond's pursuit of Blofeld is told chronologically, following Bond as he infiltrates Piz Gloria, gathers information, becomes detected, and flees down the slope of the mountain. This adventure contains alternating highs and lows, as Bond has successes, near misses, and finally the failure of his cover. The race down the mountain takes up two chapters of detailed description of pure action, keeping the reader enthralled.

After Bond returns to England and discovers what Blofeld is up to, both the storyline of his romance and the storyline of his conflict with Blofeld reach a head. Bond prepares for marriage, and simultaneously, he prepares to destroy Blofeld and the organization at the peak of Piz Gloria. The attack on Piz Gloria climaxes in another chase down the mountain, but this time Bond does not achieve his goal.

The final scenes after the climax are again concerned with Bond's romance with Tracy. The author gives ample clues that Bond will not live happily ever after. The unsuccessful resolution of the fight against Blofeld creates a dark cloud over the occasion and

foreshadows the tragic shooting and car crash that ends the book—and leaves Bond's saga open for another chapter.



Quotes

"He liked private girls, girls he could discover himself and make his own. Perhaps, he admitted, there was an inverted snobbery in this. Perhaps, even less worthily, it was that the famous ones were less easy to get." Chap. 2, p. 16

"'Besides'—there was an edge of bitterness in her voice—I would always be able to beat you. You want to stay alive." Chap. 3, p. 29

"In the filing cabinet, in its icebox, the hum of the generator broke in on what Bond suddenly knew was going to be an important moment of truth. He didn't know what the truth was going to be. He didn't think it was going to be bad. But he had an instinct that, somehow, perhaps because he had conceived respect and affection for this man, it was going to mean deep involvement for himself." Chap. 4, p. 39

"What a complex of bloods and temperaments! Corsican English." Chap. 5, p. 43

"'It's as if—Sable Basilisk furrowed his high, pale brow, seeking for a simile—'these fundamentally good citizens, these Smiths and Browns and Joneses and'—he smiled across the desk—'Bonds, regarded the process of ennoblement as a sort of laying-on of hands, a way of ridding themselves of all the drabness of their lives, of all their, so to speak, essential meagreness, their basic inferiority.'" Chap. 7, p. 68

"Encouraged by the prospect of this cosy self-anaesthesia, Bond brusquely kicked his problems under the carpet of his consciousness." Chap. 8, p. 77

"Names like Ruby, Violet, Pearl, Anne, Elizabeth, Beryl, sounded in his ears, but all he saw was a sea of beautiful, sunburned faces and a succession of splendid, sweated young bosoms." Chap. 10, p. 90

"God, what a death! A typical Blofeld death, a typical SPECTRE revenge for the supreme crime of disobedience." Chap. 11, p. 104

"So sexual perversions, and sex itself, were a main security risk. So was greed for money. But what about status? What about that most insidious of vices, snobbery?" Chap. 13, pp. 127

"There was real pleasure in what they did to each other, and in the end, when it was over and they lay quietly in each other's arms, Bond knew, and knew that the girl knew, that they had done nothing wrong, done no harm to each other." Chap. 14, p. 132

"Could he have saved Campbell? Well, he could have had a desperate shot at it." Chap. 15, p. 144

"But of course! It was Christmas Eve! God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing ye dismay! Bond's skis hissed an accompaniment as he zigzagged fast down the beautiful snow slope. White Christmas!" Chap. 17, p. 162



"What a girl! The thought of her, of having an ally, of not being on his own, of being away from that bloody mountain, revived Bond." Chap. 18, p. 172

"At last the plum pudding arrived, flaming traditionally. Mrs. Hammond had implanted several cheap silver gewgaws in it and M nearly broke a tooth on the miniature horseshoe. Bond got the bachelor's button. He thought of Tracy. It should have been the ring!" Chap. 20, p. 194

"He reflected that it was rather fun, this time, being on the side of the devil." Chap. 23, p. 219

"Had Blofeld, now only about thirty yards ahead, dropped something, a bit of his equipment? Had he? The realization came to Bond in a surge of terror that almost made him vomit. He ground his toes into the ice. No effect! He was gaining on the gaily bouncing thing. Flashing down on it. On the grenade!" Chap. 25, p. 238

"'It's all right,' he said in a clear voice as if explaining something to a child. 'It's quite all right. She's having a rest. We'll be going on soon. There's no hurry. You see—' Bond's head sank down against hers and he whispered into her hair—'you see, we've got all the time in the world.'" Chap. 27, p. 259



Topics for Discussion

What is James Bond's view of women?

Why doesn't Bond think of Tracy when he sleeps with Ruby?

How is James Bond a masculine fantasy?

James Bond is not tempted by money, fame, sex, or titles. However, he is tempted by danger and revenge. Could this make him a security risk?

What makes Tracy Bond's perfect woman?

In Bond's world, physical beauty or ugliness corresponds to inner beauty or ugliness. Is it irresponsible to portray physical beauty and ugliness in this unrealistic way?

How would a long-term relationship such as marriage conflict with Bond's lifestyle as an international spy?

Blofeld is a central character, and yet the reader sees very little of him. Why doesn't Fleming include more scenes of Blofeld?