

The Spy Who Loved Me Study Guide

The Spy Who Loved Me by Ian Fleming

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Plot Summary

The Spy Who Loved Me is a James Bond novel told not from Bond's point of view, but from that of a young woman he comes to help. The young woman, Viv Michel, is an intelligent young woman who has difficulty in romance and comes to America to start a new life. During her travels, Viv stops at a motel for the night and is offered a job that will help supplement her travel budget. This job is too good to be true, and ends in a standoff between two mobsters and Bond. This novel is different from many of the other Bond novels, but it is full of the same excitement and sexual tension that makes Bond a favorite for readers of all ages.

Viv Michel has difficulty in love. Two failed romances leave her looking for a change in her life. Viv, living in London since attending finishing school, decides to start over in America. Viv flies to Quebec to visit her aunt and then begins the drive from there to Florida on a sporty Vespa motor bike. The first few weeks on the road, Viv stops at every tourist attraction, excited to see all the sights. However, the attractions begin to lose their appeal and become traps, so Viv leaves the main highway and begins looking for beauty in the out-of-the-way spots along her route.

Viv arrives at the Dreamy Pines Motor Court late one evening, intending to only stay for the night. After speaking to her for some time, the couple managing the motel, the Phanceys, offer her a job. Their receptionist took off the week before and they need a girl to man the desk for the final two weeks of the season. Viv agrees to the job, thinking the money will help supplement her travel budget. The job is simple, appearing almost unnecessary to Viv, making the two weeks something of a vacation. The only downside of the situation is the Phanceys' unfortunate behaviors toward Viv.

At the end of the season, Mrs. Phancey comes to Viv and tells her that she and her husband are going to leave a day early and requests that Viv stay the last night in order to meet with the owner the following day. Viv agrees, looking forward to a little solitude. However, there is a terrible storm that frightens Viv. Viv turns on the vacancy light, hoping for a little company. Viv does not plan on the first knock being a couple of mobsters.

Viv opens the door for two men, unaware of who they are, and tells them the motel is closed. However these two men know her name and the name of the owner, and claim to be insurance men the owner has hired to inventory the motel before the owner's arrival the next day. Viv lets them in and quickly regrets her choice. The two men are clearly mobsters who have been sent for something criminal, though Viv is not sure what.

Viv tries to escape the first chance she is given, but the men chase her down and bring her back to the motel. One man gives Viv a beating and the second attempts to rape her. They are interrupted in these activities by another knock on the door. The visitor is James Bond, looking for a room after his car has suffered a flat tire. Viv tells Bond what is going on the first chance she gets and Bond promises to help her.



When everyone goes to bed that night, Bond schools Viv on how to protect herself from unwanted guests. However, Bond does not know that the mobsters have already made themselves a hidden entry into her room. Viv wakes in the middle of the night to someone jumping out of her clothes closet and is knocked on the head. When Viv wakes again she is in the woods and the motel is on fire. Bond tells her it was mobsters' plan to burn down the motel and blame it on her.

Bond goes after the mobsters. On first his first attempt, Bond is foiled and the mobsters escape. However, a gun fight ensues shortly after and Bond believes he has killed both mobsters. Later that night, it turns out that one of the men is still alive. While Bond and Viv are asleep, this man attempts to shoot them in their beds. Bond kills the man. The next morning, Bond leaves before Viv wakes, but he goes to the police and makes sure Viv is well taken care of.



Part One, Me, Chapter 1, Scaredy Cat

Part One, Me, Chapter 1, Scaredy Cat Summary

The Spy Who Loved Me is a James Bond novel told not from Bond's point of view, but from that of a young woman he comes to help. The young woman, Viv Michel, is an intelligent young woman who has difficulty in romance and comes to America to start a new life. During her travels, Viv stops at a motel for the night and is offered a job that will help supplement her travel budget. This job is too good to be true, and ends in a standoff between two mobsters and Bond. This novel is different from many of the other Bond novels, but it is full of the same excitement and sexual tension that makes Bond a favorite for readers of all ages.

Viv Michel watches the Phanceys drive away, relieved to finally have the place to herself. It looks like it might rain, but Viv is not afraid, despite being the lone occupant of a secluded motel. Viv is at the Dreamy Pines Motor Court where she has been working for the last two weeks. It is a cozy, family oriented motel with more than a dozen cabins nested around a main lobby building. It is the end of the season and Viv is to hand over the keys to the owner in the morning in place of the Phanceys, the managers. Viv stands outside for a few minutes, enjoying the cool air, regretting that the storm due later tonight will cause the birds to be silent.

The storm blows in quickly and with a lot of thunder. Viv suddenly becomes frightened as she listens to the violent storm. Viv suddenly does not want to be alone any longer. Viv turns on the vacancy sign by the front door even though she is not supposed to accept any guests tonight. Viv thinks maybe the owner will understand her need for company. However, Viv touches the switch at the same time lightning fills the sky and is knocked unconscious by the resulting shock.

Part One, Me, Chapter 1, Scaredy Cat Analysis

Viv Michel is working in a motel. The season comes to an end and the managers leave her alone to hand off the keys to the owner the next day. Viv is alone in a secluded motel, a situation that a jaded reader might see as asking for trouble. Viv is unworried, however. Viv is looking forward to spending the night alone, unmolested and unafraid. Viv only regrets that an impending storm will scare away all the wildlife she has come accustomed to listening to at night.

When the storm hits, it is a vicious storm that steals Viv's sense of fun. Viv becomes frightened, her pleasant solitude becoming a frightening vulnerability. Viv decides to turn on the vacancy light even though she is not supposed to have any more guests in the motel. This is an important event in the course of the novel, because this decision will be a precursor to several events later in the novel, one being the arrival of the hero, James Bond. When Viv touches the switch, she nearly electrocutes herself, suggesting

to the reader that Viv does not have the common sense a girl alone needs. The reader sees this and sees Viv alone in a secluded motel and knows trouble is coming.



Part One, Me, Chapter 2, Dead Dead Days, and Chapter 3, Spring's Awakening

Part One, Me, Chapter 2, Dead Dead Days, and Chapter 3, Spring's Awakening Summary

Viv wakes and finds that she is mostly unharmed and no harm has come to the appliances around her. Viv shakes off the experience and decides to go to her cabin to shower and change. Viv dresses in casual clothes since she does not expect to see anyone tonight. Viv then returns to the lobby building and pores herself a drink. A song comes on the radio that reminds Viv of a boy she once knew and she finds herself crying, not over a spoiled romance but a loss of innocence.

Viv is French-Canadian, raised in Quebec by an aunt after her mother and father are killed in a plane accident. Viv is sent to London as a young teen to attend finishing school, an idea that Viv does not like and debates endlessly. In the end, however, Viv finds she enjoys the school and she makes a good friend among the students there. After school, Viv takes an apartment with this friend.

One night, Viv and her friend give a party in their apartment. They run out of alcohol, so Viv is forced to go to the store. A nice young man she has just met goes with her and pays for the liquor. Later when the party breaks up, this same young man asks Viv to go out with him. Viv agrees and has such a good time that she fancies herself in love. Viv is thrilled when he asks her to come visit him in Windsor the following weekend. On this visit, Derek takes Viv for a ride in his car, on a picnic, and to the movies. At the movies they share in some intimate touching that leaves Viv both excited and ashamed. However, Viv is thrilled when Derek asks her to come back again.

Soon Viv's visits to Windsor become routine. Viv does not question Derek's reluctance to introduce her to his friends and family, assuming that will come later. Viv is simply deeply in love and believes Derek loves her as well. As summer draws to a close, Viv goes to Windsor for one final weekend before Derek goes to Oxford. This time Derek is not as affectionate when they get to the movie theater. When Viv asks why, he tells her he wants to make love to her. Viv is reluctant, but Derek is so insistent that she agrees. However, they are caught by the theater manager and thrown out.



Part One, Me, Chapter 2, Dead Dead Days, and Chapter 3, Spring's Awakening Analysis

Viv begins to think about her past. Viv tells the reader how she is raised by an aunt after her parents die, and how she is sent to another country for her education. The reader sees in these actions that Viv needed affection as a child and is not surprised when her thoughts quickly turn to her first romance. Viv meets this boy after she finishes school and takes an apartment with a good friend from school. The boy takes her out once and already Viv feels she is in love.

Viv begins going to see this boy in the city on the weekends. Viv never asks this boy why she cannot see him during the week, why he does not introduce her to his friends, or why he never takes her home to his parents. Viv assumes these things will come later. The reader, however, can see that this behavior is not the norm in a loving relationship and might begin to wonder if this young man has intentions that are not altogether honorable. When Derek pressures Viv to make love, the reader thinks perhaps these unkind thoughts are unwarranted.



Part One, Me, Chapter 4, 'Dear Viv', and Chapter 5, A Bird with a Wing Down

Part One, Me, Chapter 4, 'Dear Viv', and Chapter 5, A Bird with a Wing Down Summary

Derek is not discouraged by the embarrassing episode at the theater. Derek suggests a park where he knows lovers like to go for privacy. Viv agrees reluctantly. The act is quick and painful for Viv, but Derek assures her it was good for him. Viv asks Derek at the train station if she should go to Oxford the following weekend to see him and he tells her he will be too busy, but he will write. Two weeks later Derek sends Viv a letter informing her that due to pressure from his parents, he is engaged to another, more suitable girl. Viv is heartbroken.

Viv spends the next couple of years concentrating on her career. Viv goes to work for a small weekly newspaper and soon becomes so proficient at her job that she is promoted to assistant editor. Then Viv meets Kurt Ranier. Kurt is a correspondent for VWZ, the German equivalent to Reuters. Kurt hires Viv to be his assistant and they quickly become good friends. Viv even takes an apartment in Kurt's building when her friend gets married. Kurt becomes engaged and shares his plans for his marriage with Viv, including intimate information about the sexual side of the marriage. Viv finds herself fascinated by Kurt's plans and begins to fantasize about being his lover. When Kurt's fiancé ends the engagement, Viv gets her wish.

Although Kurt is somewhat stiff and chauvinistic, Viv is happy in their relationship. When Viv finds out she is pregnant, she has no doubt Kurt will ask her to marry him. However, Kurt gives Viv information on how to get an abortion in Zurich and explains that he cannot marry a woman outside of his genetic pool. Once again Viv is heartbroken by an insensitive lover.

Part One, Me, Chapter 4, 'Dear Viv', and Chapter 5, A Bird with a Wing Down Analysis

Derek pushes Viv to make love despite her loss of desire after the disastrous attempt in the movie theater. However, Viv wants to make Derek happy so she agrees. The experience is painful and embarrassing for Viv, but Derek seems to enjoy it, so Viv is pleased. However, Viv soon learns that Derek was using her for her body and no longer wants to see her. The reader is sad to see that their initial impression of the situation was correct.

Viv turns her attention to her work, and becomes quite successful at it, but soon finds herself falling in love again. This time she begins a friendship and believes that she can

trust this man. However, it soon blossoms into a sexual relationship Viv believes has a future. Viv learns quickly enough, however, that Kurt is just like Derek, using her for her body. Kurt never has any intention of marrying Viv. Now Viv is not only heartbroken, but pregnant. The reader wonders what Viv will do now, alone and in a terrible predicament.



Part One, Chapter 6, Go West, Young Woman

Part One, Chapter 6, Go West, Young Woman Summary

Viv goes to Zurich, takes the maturity she has learned in her failed relationships and uses it to strengthen her character. Viv decides the sophistication of London is the source of her troubles. Viv decides to leave London, visit her aunt, and then drive through America to Florida where she hopes to find a job with a newspaper. Viv buys a Vespa, a motor scooter, and has it shipped to Quebec.

Viv's aunt is not happy with her decision, afraid Viv will make a spectacle of herself driving on the Vespa and will be in danger traveling alone. Viv dismisses her aunt's concerns. Viv heads out in mid-September, intent on seeing everything there is to see between Quebec and Florida. Viv spends nearly two weeks going a mere two hundred miles because she stops at every tourist attraction there is. However, the tourist traps soon become depressing and Viv decides to get off the main highway and see some of the back roads. It is while doing this that Viv comes across the Dreamy Pines Motor Court.

Part One, Chapter 6, Go West, Young Woman Analysis

Viv goes to Zurich as Kurt instructs. Afterward, however, she decides she has to make a change in her life. Viv decides she will be stronger, more assertive, and she will get away from the sophistication of London that has caused her such heartache. Viv does not think these broken romances are her fault or the fault of the men she has been involved with, but believes it is the customs of the large city that cause her such difficulty. Viv makes arrangements to travel to Quebec and from there to Florida.

Viv visits her aunt. Viv's aunt does not approve of what she is doing, but Viv's need for her aunt's approval has long since passed. Viv is excited about her trip and decides to make the best of it by stopping to see as many sights as possible. Viv spends two weeks seeing these sights, but when they become nothing more than tourist traps, Viv leaves the main road. It is this fateful decision that brings Viv to the Dreamy Pines Motor Court. The reader wonders how much Viv has really changed in all of her heartbreak and if these changes will do her any good at Dreamy Pines.



Part Two, Them, Chapter 7, 'Come Into my Parlor...'

Part Two, Them, Chapter 7, 'Come Into my Parlor...' Summary

When Viv arrives at the Dreamy Pines Motor Court she only intends to stay for one night. However, Mrs. Phancey explains to her that the receptionist quit and they need someone to man the desk for the remaining two weeks left in the season. Thinking the money will be a nice supplement to her travel budget, Viv agrees. The job is easy and mostly pleasant, though working with the Phanceys is quite a challenge. Mr. Phancey has his eye on Viv, thinking she might be a pleasure in bed and Viv is constantly pushing him away. Mrs. Phancey is demanding and rude, constantly pushing Viv to do chores that are not part of her job description.

A few days before the end of the season, Mrs. Phancey comes to Viv and tells her they have decided to leave early, so Viv will have to remain one last night so she can hand over the keys to Mr. Sanguinetti the following afternoon when he arrives. Viv agrees, but changes her mind on the final day when the Phanceys are more difficult than before. However, Mrs. Phancey tells her if she wants to be paid she has to stay around. Then the Phanceys leave and Viv enjoys her solitude once more. Viv is about to fix herself something to eat when a knock sounds on the door.

Part Two, Them, Chapter 7, 'Come Into my Parlor...' Analysis

Viv is offered a job at the motel even though she has only come to stay one night. The Phanceys hear her story, of how she is traveling through America to Florida and how she is from Canada and has little family. The reader instantly smells something funny in the Phanceys' job offer, especially when they decide to leave early and leave Viv in charge of the empty motel. Even Viv finds this strange, but accepts the explanation that nothing of value has been left behind for her to steal. Still, to the reader the explanation seems flimsy.

Viv has changed some, though, and the reader sees her new strength when she is near Mr. Phancey. Viv successfully keeps the man from bothering her, something she might not have been capable of before. The reader sees this change as hopeful, but is concerned that Viv is not strong enough to face what might be coming in the next few chapters, especially when that knock comes on the door at the end of the chapter.



Part Two, Them, Chapter 8, Dynamite from Nightmare-Land

Part Two, Them, Chapter 8, Dynamite from Nightmare-Land Summary

Viv remembers she forgot to turn the vacancy sign back off and thinks perhaps her visitors are simply travelers looking for a place to stay. Viv pulls the door open, but leaves the chain on, and begins to explain that the motel is closed. However the man standing there knows Viv's name and says he has come on behalf of the owner. The man says he and his companion work for an insurance company and have come to do an inventory before the owner arrives the next day. The man says he has credentials, but wants Viv to let him in first.

Viv lets the men in and quickly regrets her decision. One look at these men and she knows they are not insurance agents, but are criminals of some sort. One of the men, Sluggsy, begins to look at her with knowing eyes and suggests he plans to have intimate relations with her that night. Viv picks up a chair and tries to use it to keep them away from her, but Sluggsy pulls a gun and fires at a coffee can in the cafeteria. Out of fright, Viv decides to cooperate.

Sluggsy goes to check out the cabins while his partner, Horror, instructs Viv to make them something to eat. While Viv is making eggs and bacon, she hides an icepick in her pants and puts a knife in easy reach behind the counter. Viv serves the food just as Sluggsy comes back in, listening carefully to see if he locked the back door. When Viv realizes he has not, she pretends to adjust the volume on the television and then runs for the door.

Part Two, Them, Chapter 8, Dynamite from Nightmare-Land Analysis

Viv has forgotten the vacancy sign she turned on in the first chapter when the storm first began. Viv thinks her visitors are simply looking for a room, but these men know her name. Viv decides to let them in and realizes right away she has made a mistake. These men are dangerous looking and one of them threatens to rape her. Viv is frightened and tries to fight them off, but one of them, Sluggsy, pulls a gun and shows her how good a shot he is. Viv stops fighting.

Horror, the other man, forces Viv to make them dinner while Sluggsy goes out to check the cabins. Sluggsy checking the cabins seems innocent at first, but the reader, knowing that these men are up to something, assumes that Sluggsy is doing something that will cause Viv trouble later. However, this is not explored at this point in the narration. When

Sluggsy comes back in, Viv realizes he did not lock the door. Viv makes a run for it, leaving the reader wondering if she will make it out.



Part Two, Them, Chapter 9, Then I Began to Scream

Part Two, Them, Chapter 9, Then I Began to Scream Summary

Viv runs into the woods, but she only has on sandals and cannot run as fast as she would like. Viv hears them start their car and a moment later realizes she cannot escape the light of the headlamps. Viv goes to ground under a tree. Moments later Sluggsy finds her. Sluggsy drags Viv back to the lobby building where Horror gives her a violent beating for not cooperating. When Viv regains consciousness, she finds herself naked in her cabin's shower. Sluggsy instructs her to clean up and return to the lobby.

When Viv returns, they again make her cook them dinner since their first dinner has grown cold. Viv does this and discovers she is hungry as well. Viv eats behind the counter. Afterward, Viv lights a cigarette and immediately regrets it as the smell attracts Sluggsy. Sluggsy threatens her again. Viv throws knives and forks at him, trying to keep him off her. Horror comes over to restrain her and Sluggsy begins to force himself on her. However, they are interrupted by a knock on the door.

Part Two, Them, Chapter 9, Then I Began to Scream Analysis

Viv tries to run away, but she is not practiced at this sort of thing and quickly grows too tired and sore to continue. Viv hides under a tree but does not do a good job and is quickly discovered. Horror beats her for her lack of cooperation but makes a point of keeping her wounds superficial for a reason that is not explained at this point. The reader notes this fact, but does not have any idea why either.

Viv makes dinner for them again and then eats her own meal. Viv feels more relaxed now that she has been given a beating and survived. However, Sluggsy now intends to rape her. Viv is frightened once again, fighting him to the best of her ability but unable to fend him off. Viv is saved when someone knocks on the door. The reader wonders who could have come out in this storm to bring Viv good luck and looks forward to learning her visitor's identity in the next chapter, though the savvy reader already has a good idea who it is.



Part Three, Him, Chapter 10, Whassat? and Chapter 11, Bedtime Story

Part Three, Him, Chapter 10, Whassat? and Chapter 11, Bedtime Story Summary

Horror has Viv open the door while he holds a gun to her back. Viv is to explain to the visitor that the vacancy sign was turned on by accident and there are no rooms. However the visitor insists on a room because he has a flat tire and does not want to continue his travels. Viv tries to signal to the man to come into the lobby. He finally gets her message and follows her inside. Due to Viv's insistence, Horror and Sluggsy reluctantly agree to give the man a room. Viv accompanies him to his car to retrieve his luggage and tells him that Horror and Sluggsy are criminals holding her hostage.

Inside, the man introduces himself as James Bond. Bond asks that Viv make him something to eat before they retire for the night. While Viv cooks, Bond tells her he is a government agent traveling to Washington to make a report on a case he just finished in Toronto. Bond got word that a Russian defector has been targeted for death by a group called Spectre. Bond took the man's place in order to arrest the leader of this group. Instead of arresting the man, however, Bond was forced to kill him. Now Bond is driving to Washington not only to make his report, but to take a few days to relax after the tension filled case. When Bond finishes telling his story, he has Viv tell him everything she knows about Horror and Sluggsy. Bond agrees these men are up to no good and promises to protect Viv.

Part Three, Him, Chapter 10, Whassat? and Chapter 11, Bedtime Story Analysis

Viv opens the door under Horror's instructions to send the visitor away, but manages to make signals to him to encourage him to stay. The man follows Viv's signals and makes his way inside the lobby after explaining he has no choice but to stay because he has a flat tire. This man even invokes the law to encourage these people to allow him to stay. The reader is curious why this does not make Horror and Sluggsy nervous. When he goes out to get his luggage, Viv tells him the two men are criminals and asks for his help. The man agrees to help.

Inside, Viv learns this man is James Bond and that he is a government agent fresh from a dangerous case. Bond's story is typical of the kind of case the Bond fan is used to seeing Bond involved in. Viv is new to this kind of story, however and is impressed. Viv tells him her own, hoping he will help her. Bond agrees to protect her. The reader is thrilled to see Bond arrive, not only because this is a Bond novel, but because the

reader knows that Bond will help Viv survive this ordeal because he has never failed to rescue a girl before.



Part Three, Him, Chapter 12, To Sleep—Perchance to Die

Part Three, Him, Chapter 12, To Sleep—Perchance to Die Summary

Horror and Sluggsy decide it is time to go to bed. Sluggsy gets gas lanterns for both Bond and Viv and escort them to Viv's cabin. Bond follows her inside and shows her how to barricade her door in order to keep Sluggsy out of her room during the night. Bond then assures her he will keep a lookout and tells her to get some sleep. After Bond leaves, Viv prepares for bed and makes herself a bedroll on the floor. Viv falls asleep quickly, but wakes in the night when she sees a light coming from the clothes cupboard. At first Viv thinks it is the automatic lights, but remembers that Sluggsy turned off the electricity. Suddenly a figure jumps out of the cupboard and hits Viv on the head.

When Viv wakes, she is being dragged into the woods. Viv starts to struggle until she realizes it is Bond. Bond tells her Horror and Sluggsy have lit the motel on fire. Bond believes this was their plan from the beginning, to burn the motel down around Viv and then blame her carelessness with the gas lantern for the blaze. However, Bond figures out their plan when they try to kill him while he supposedly slept in his bed and lit his cabin on fire. Bond tells Viv to stay put while he goes to find Horror and Sluggsy. Viv asks to help, but Bond makes her stay behind.

Part Three, Him, Chapter 12, To Sleep—Perchance to Die Analysis

Bond helps Viv prepare her room for sleep, showing her how to secure the door to keep Sluggsy and Horror out. However, Bond does not know Sluggsy has already made himself a route into the room without using the door, something he must have done while he was checking the cabins earlier. Sluggsy comes into the room and knocks Viv unconscious. The reader is sure Sluggsy intends to kill or rape Viv, but it turns out this is not his intention. Sluggsy wants Viv to die in a fire so the insurance company will think Viv started the fire through negligence. This has been the plan all along and why Horror and Sluggsy are so determined to keep Viv under their control.

Bond saves Viv from the fire in her cabin and drags her into the woods. Bond tells Viv about the plot against her and then explains he must go after Horror and Sluggsy. Bond does not want these criminals to get away for what they have done to Viv. Viv tries to talk him out of it, but Bond is determined. Viv then suggests she help, but again Bond refuses. Bond wants to keep Viv safe while he does his job.



Part Three, Him, Chapter 13, The Crash of Guns

Part Three, Him, Chapter 13, The Crash of Guns Summary

Viv watches from one of the carports. Viv sees Horror and Sluggsy trying to get to their car with two televisions. Viv wonders why Bond does not kill them. Instead, Bond approaches them as they are by their car and tells them to stop. Bond then calls Viv and instructs her to search Horror. While Viv is searching him, Horror drops his television and pulls Viv into his arms, taking her hostage. Bond tries to shoot Horror in the leg, but Sluggsy throws his television at Bond and hits his head. Both Horror and Sluggsy run toward one of the cabins that has not begun to burn.

Viv helps Bond clean up the gash on his forehead. Bond gives Viv a gun and tells her to go into the tree line while he stays near the car, hoping to cut off Horror and Sluggsy's retreat. Viv does as she is told, but soon she can see Horror crawling toward Bond's position. Bond must have sensed this plan, however, because Viv can see him making his way toward Sluggsy's position in the cabin. Bond fires at Sluggsy several times, but fails to hit him. Sluggsy runs toward the car, firing a machine gun at Bond as he goes. Horror is driving. The car crosses the field between the cabins and the lobby building and looks like it might hit Bond. Bond fires on the car and it changes course, driving over a small cliff and landing in the lake. Bond assumes both men are dead and suggest he and Viv retire to one of the unburned cabins.

Part Three, Him, Chapter 13, The Crash of Guns Analysis

Viv watches as Bond approaches Horror and Sluggsy and tries to keep them from leaving. Bond calls Viv over and she is instructed to look for guns. However, Horror takes advantage of the situation and takes Viv hostage, keeping Bond from shooting him. Bond does not hesitate, however, and fires anyway, prompting Sluggsy to throw his television at Bond. Horror and Sluggsy get away.

Bond gives Viv a gun and goes after Sluggsy and Horror. Bond is successful in scaring Sluggsy out of the cabin and into the car. Horror and Sluggsy think they can kill Bond with the car, but Bond is a good shot and he kills Horror while he is behind the wheel. The car goes into the lake and Bond assumes that both men are dead. Bond does not go to check. The reader notices this lack of precaution and wonders if perhaps it will not cause Bond a problem later.



Part Three, Him, Chapter 14, Bimbo, and Chapter 15, The Writing on my Heart

Part Three, Him, Chapter 14, Bimbo, and Chapter 15, The Writing on my Heart Summary

Viv goes into cabin number three and takes a shower. Bond joins her a few minutes later and soon they are in bed together. Viv thinks to herself that Bond is very exciting but not a man she can have a commitment with. Viv is okay with this even though she believes herself in love with him. Bond goes to sleep, but Viv lies awake for a time. Viv sees someone in the window and tries to wake Bond. Bond is already awake and goes running out of the cabin naked. When Bond returns, he tells her Sluggsy survived the crash, but is dead now. Bond and Viv make love once more and then go to sleep.

When Viv wakes the next morning, Bond is gone. Bond has left her a letter telling her that he will go to the police first thing and arrange for her to get any reward money that might exist. Bond wants to make sure Viv is well cared for. However, there are no proclamations of love in the letter. A short time later, the police arrive just as Bond has promised. Viv spends several hours speaking to the police captain. When the captain is satisfied with Viv's statement, he asks to speak to her as a father might speak to a daughter. The captain tells Viv that Bond is no better than the criminals he helps to stop and that she should not waste her time falling in love with him. However, as Viv resumes her travels she thinks perhaps she knows Bond better than that and will love him no matter what anyone says.

Part Three, Him, Chapter 14, Bimbo, and Chapter 15, The Writing on my Heart Analysis

Viv and Bond spend a few intimate hours together. Viv accepts that Bond is not a man she can have a commitment with, but does not feel as though their time together is wasted. Viv loves him and feels being with him is the right thing to do. When the police captain later tells her not to love Bond, Viv refuses to take his advice. Viv likes the idea she had a night with Bond and pleased him for that one night. Viv loves Bond and will not let that emotion go.

While Viv and Bond are sleeping, Sluggsy arrives at the cabin. Sluggsy is still alive, as hinted at by Bond's failure to make sure both men were dead. However, Bond is used to these sort of surprises and is able to stop Sluggsy from hurting anyone. The next morning, Bond leaves early and arranges for the police to come. Bond wants Viv to be taken care of and pulls every string he can to be sure she is alright. Bond shows Viv as much love as he can in this action, something that Viv takes to heart and holds on to when she wakes and finds him gone.



Characters

Vivienne Michel

Vivienne Michel, or Viv, is a sweet young woman raised in Quebec and educated in London. Viv is an orphan raised by an aunt. Viv's affection-starved childhood leaves her anxious to find love in her relationships with men, but she has little success in this. Viv's first love, Derek, turns out to simply be using her for physical pleasures. Viv's second lover, a man who is controlling and boring, helps Viv convince herself that this life has its simple pleasures. Viv falls in love with this man only to have him turn his back on her when he learns she is pregnant.

After these two failed relationships, Viv decides it is time to take her life into her own hands. Viv plans a trip where she will drive from Quebec to Florida. Viv begins the trip with an optimistic air, excited at the idea of seeing new and interesting sights as well as making a new beginning in her life. However, Viv's plans are sidelined when she stops to take a job to supplement her traveling money. Viv finds herself the scapegoat in an insurance scam, with little hope of getting out of the situation until James Bond appears. Viv quickly trusts Bond and accepts his help, giving him her heart when it is all done. Bond leaves Viv like the other men, but this time Viv is accepting of the situation and decides she can hold onto his love without having him physically in her life.

James Bond

James Bond is a secret agent for the British government. Bond is in America after finishing a case in Canada that put his life in danger, like almost all his cases. Bond is driving to Washington to make a report on his case when he has a flat tire near the Dreamy Pines Motor Court. Bond tries to get a room in the motel because the vacancy light is on, but is told the motel is closed. When Viv gestures to him that he should come in, Bond insists on taking a room. Bond is given a room by the mobsters who have come to supposedly watch over the motel. Viv tells Bond what has been happening in the motel before his arrival and he agrees to help.

When everyone goes to bed, Bond makes up a decoy in his bed and waits to see what the mobsters will do. Bond's suspicions are confirmed when one of the mobsters comes to his room and shoots the decoy. Bond's cabin is then lit on fire. Bond runs around the back of the motel to save Viv, but he is nearly too late. Bond pulls Viv from the fire in her cabin and hides her in the woods before returning to the motel to catch the mobsters. Bond has difficulty at first and the mobsters manage to get away momentarily. However, in Bond fashion, Bond manages to get the better of the mobsters. Later Bond reports the incident to the police and uses his influence to be sure Viv is well taken care of.



Horror

Horror is one of the mobsters who take over the motel. Horror appears to be the leader of the two mobsters. Horror is a bad-tempered man who has just gotten out of jail. When Viv tries to escape the motel shortly after their arrival, Horror helps Sluggsy track her down and then beats her viciously for the attempt. Viv is afraid of Horror and tries to keep out of his way during the time in which he holds her hostage. Later, when Bond arrives, Horror is the one who instructs Viv to send him away. When Viv refuses, Horror makes the decision to allow Bond to stay. However, Bond gets the better of Horror when he shoots him in the foot during a gun battle. Later when Horror thinks he has gotten away, Bond shoots and kills Horror behind the wheel of his car, thus ending the hostage ordeal.

Sluggsy

Sluggsy is the other mobster who takes over the Dreamy Pines Motel Court while Viv is alone there. Sluggsy is a hairless creep who is highly sexual and threatens to rape Viv on several occasions. Viv finds Sluggsy disgusting and hopes he will leave her alone. However, Sluggsy has other plans and nearly rapes her before Bond arrives on the scene. When Bond arrives, Sluggsy remains in his place until everyone has gone to bed for the night. After Viv attempts to go to sleep, Sluggsy breaks into her room through a hole he has picked into the side of her cabin. Sluggsy does not rape Viv but instead knocks her unconscious before lighting her room on fire. If not for Bond, Viv would surely have died. Later, after Bond believes both Horror and Sluggsy are dead, Sluggsy sneaks up to their cabin and tries to kill them while they sleep. However, Bond wakes quickly enough to stop him.

Derek Mallaby

Derek Mallaby is Viv's first lover. Derek is a privileged young man who has been accepted to Oxford. Derek meets Viv at a party and invites her to his hometown of Windsor for a ride in his convertible. During their first day together Derek tells Viv he cares very much for her. Based on this near declaration of love, Viv continues to see Derek all through the summer. Viv is unconcerned when Derek does not introduce her to his friends or family, assuming he will eventually. On their final date that summer, Derek pressures Viv into sleeping with him. When the act is complete, Derek's attitude changes toward Viv. A few weeks later, Viv receives a letter in which Derek ends their relationship.

Kurt Rainer

Kurt Rainer is a writer who works for an agency similar to Reuters. When Kurt learns Viv is a strong writer, he hires her to be his assistant. Viv and Kurt work closely together for a long period of time in which they become good friends. Kurt becomes engaged and



shares with Viv his plans for his marriage, including his sexual plans. When Kurt's fiancé breaks the engagement, Kurt turns to Viv for comfort. Viv welcomes Kurt into her bed because she has fallen in love with him during the planning of his wedding. Viv believes Kurt is controlling and boring, but that she can be happy in a long term relationship with him. When Viv learns she is pregnant, she believes Kurt will marry her. However, Kurt cannot see himself marrying or having children with a woman not of his same genetic background. Kurt abandons Viv and sends her off to have an abortion on her own.

The Phanceys

The Phanceys are a couple who manage the Dreamy Pines Motor Court. Viv arrives at the motel in early October, only intending to stay for the night. However, after the husband learns of her plans to travel to Florida, his wife offers her a job. They need a receptionist to work the final two weeks of the season. Viv immediately agrees since she needs money to supplement her travel fund. The Phanceys seem nice enough, even though the husband tends to be sexually inappropriate with her and Mrs. Phancey can be rude. Despite these things, Viv gets on well with the Phanceys until their final day at the motel. On that day they are rude and unkind to Viv, making her happy when they finally drive away. We later learn there is a plot to burn down the motel and Viv is to be the scapegoat.

Mr. Sanguinetti

Mr. Sanguinetti is the owner of the motel. Viv is told Mr. Sanguinetti is to meet her at the motel the day after the Phanceys leave to pay her and arrange for the packing of all the valuable furniture at the motel. Viv learns the motel is not doing well financially and Mr. Sanguinetti plans to get what he can out of it and sell it. However, it turns out Mr. Sanguinetti's plan is to burn down the motel, blame it on Viv, and collect the insurance money. Bond foils these plans and Mr. Sanguinetti will eventually be arrested for fraud.

Police

Bond leaves the motel before Viv wakes and goes straight to the police. The police arrive at the motel shortly after Viv wakes. The police captain takes Viv's statement, speaking with her for more than two hours to make sure he has all the information correct. When he is finished, the police captain warns Viv not to fall in love with a man like James Bond. The captain tells Viv that Bond is not unlike the criminals he is paid to catch and that a man like that is not the kind of man a woman can keep. Viv listens politely, but in the end decides it is too late, that she is already in love with Bond. However, Viv has learned her lesson and knows she will never be able to share a commitment with a man like Bond.

Viv's Aunt

Viv's aunt is a kindly, if unaffectionate, woman. Viv's aunt lives in Quebec and is embroiled in the religious struggle that is a large part of the community there. Viv grew up in this struggle and found it to be oppressive. However, when Viv returns as an adult, she finds the struggle trite and unimportant. Viv's aunt is also a traditional woman who is shocked when she learns Viv's intention to ride a Vespa from Quebec to Florida. Viv's aunt argues that Viv will make a spectacle of herself. However, what Viv's aunt does not know is that this is part of the reason Viv chose the Vespa. Viv respects her aunt, but she ignores her warnings and begins her trip anyway.



Objects/Places

Oxford

Oxford is a prestigious college in England. Derek begins attending Oxford the summer after his affair with Viv and it is his excuse for ending their relationship.

The Royalty Kinema

The Royalty Kinema is a movie theater in Windsor where Viv and Derek often spend their afternoons. It is from here that Viv and Derek are thrown out when the manager catches them attempting to have intimate relations.

Chelsea Clarion

Chelsea Clarion is a weekly publication where Viv gets her first job and becomes a talented writer.

Verband Westdeutscher Zeitungen

Verband Westdeutscher Zeitungen or VWZ is the German equivalent of Reuters. Kurt Rainer works for VWZ and decides to employ Viv as his assistant.

Saddle Bags

Viv uses saddle bags to carry her luggage while she is traveling on the Vespa.

Clothes Closet

Sluggsy cuts into the back of Viv's clothes closet in order to get into her room the night Bond arrives at the Dreamy Pines Motor Court.

Cabin Number Three

Cabin Number Three is the cabin Viv and Bond stay in after Horror and Sluggsy are believed to be dead. It is here that Sluggsy nearly kills them after escaping the car.

Vespa

Viv is driving through America on a Vespa, a small motor scooter.



Dreamy Pines Motor Court

Dreamy Pines Motor Inn is a motel where Viv stops for the night and ends up accepting a job offer. This is also the location where Viv gets into trouble when Horror and Sluggsy show up.

Quebec

Viv grows up in Quebec under the supervision of an aunt.

London

Viv's aunt sends her to London to go to finishing school. Viv remains in London for several years to work and decides to leave after two failed love affairs.

Zurich

After becoming pregnant by Kurt, Viv goes to Zurich to have an abortion.



Themes

Love

Viv is a woman who suffers loss even before she is old enough to understand it. Viv's parents both died in a plane crash, leaving her an orphan at the young age of eight. This leaves Viv in the custody of an aunt who is not an overly affectionate woman. When Viv is barely sixteen, her aunt sends her to London to finishing school, a situation which places her as a child away from home, in a foreign land, without the support of family. A childhood such as this leaves Viv feeling a lack of affection and anxious to find love in whatever form she can.

Viv's first love is a privileged young man who feels he can use people for whatever he wants. Derek takes Viv out every weekend, but fails to ever introduce her to his parents or his friends. Viv does not think this strange, but when he begins to push her to have intimate relations the reader begins to wonder what his long term plans with Viv might be. Viv is terribly shocked and heartbroken when Derek breaks up with her shortly after she gives in and makes love with him. However, the reader is not surprised.

Later Viv falls in love with her boss, Kurt Rainer. Kurt is a straight-laced German who plans out everything in his life, including his sexual life. When Kurt is dumped by his fiancé, Viv takes him into her bed. Viv begins this relationship with the awareness that it is only a friendship situation. However, as the relationship continues, Viv falls in love. It is inevitable that the relationship will sour, but Viv does not see it coming. When she learns she is pregnant, Viv imagines Kurt will marry her. Instead, Kurt tells her he cannot marry a girl outside his genetic pool and sends her to Zurich to have an abortion.

After Kurt, Viv begins to understand she is unlucky in love, though she does not know why. Viv decides it is the sophistication of London that causes her these problems and decides to move to America. Viv plans a trip in which she will drive from her aunt's home in Quebec to Florida where she hopes to get a job writing. Viv is sidetracked when she becomes the victim of some mobsters in the Adirondacks, and once again falls in love with the man who comes to save her, James Bond.

Trust

In Viv's desire to find the love she missed out on as a child, she trusts people too quickly and too much. Viv trusts Derek and believes his intentions toward her are honorable. However, Derek is interested in Viv only for a sexual relationship. Viv swears to not allow her heart to be broken again, but then comes to trust her boss, Kurt Rainer. Viv believes Kurt is a good man who will take care of her, perhaps even marrying her should she become pregnant. However, when it happens, Kurt sends her off on her own to have an abortion.



Viv decides to harden her heart and take her life in a new direction. Viv takes a road trip through America with the intention of finding a job in Florida. However, when Viv stops at a motel and is offered a job, she trusts these strangers have only the most honest of intentions. Viv is once again wrong to trust. It turns out Viv has arrived just in time to act as a scapegoat in an insurance scam. The owner of the motel wants to burn it down since it is not making money. Viv is to be blamed for the fire, but in order for this to work, she must die. Viv does not see the maliciousness in the couple who hire her and does not see it fast enough in the mobsters who come to start the fire. Viv still has not learned, however. When James Bond arrives, without knowing who he is, Viv puts all her trust in him, hoping he will save her life.

Danger

Danger enters this novel in two forms. First, Viv places herself in emotional danger every time she trusts a man to love her. Viv gives her heart easily and has it broken twice by men she thought she might have a future with. Later, Viv gives her heart to James Bond and is less surprised when she finds he has left her without saying goodbye, but still disappointed. Viv is a trusting, naive young girl who wants nothing more than to be loved. Viv reaches out to men over and over, only to be let down each time. In this way, danger is a theme of Viv's emotional health.

Danger also enters the novel when Horror and Sluggsy come to the motel. Viv is immediately placed in physical danger by these men who make it clear to her that their intentions are not pure. Sluggsy suggests over and over that he intends to rape Viv several times during the night. Horror beats Viv terribly after she attempts to run away. Later, Horror and Sluggsy start a fire that would have killed Viv if Bond did not save her life. When Bond tries to restrain Horror and Sluggsy from leaving before the police can arrest them, a gun fight breaks out. Viv and Bond are later nearly killed when Sluggsy survives the car wreck and sneaks up to the cabin where Viv and Bond are sleeping. Due to all these activities, danger is a major theme of the novel.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of this novel is first person. The novel is written as a diary type of autobiography written by the heroine, Viv Michel. Viv tells the story completely from her point of view, relating the events and her reactions to the reader through the use of the personal pronoun, I. At no point does any other character take over the narration, keeping it completely in Viv's voice, avoiding any confusion over who might be speaking.

This point of view works because it keeps the narration tight with only one viewpoint. It is an unusual point of view for a James Bond novel as previous Bond novels have been told in the third person and most often through the eyes of Bond himself. This novel never engages Bond's voice. In fact, Bond himself does not enter the narration until the final six chapters. The novel is more about Viv, a young girl who is violated by men, and the spy who comes along and saves her. It is because of this plot that the narration works well. It would not be the same novel if it had been written through Bond's eyes or if it had been written in a third person point of view.

Setting

The setting of this novel is a small motel in the Adirondack Mountains. The motel, Dreamy Pines Motor Court, is a collection of buildings that sit in a semi-circle around the main lobby building. Each cabin where the guests stay has a carport on either side for the guests to keep their cars. The lobby building holds the main desk, a reception lobby, and a cafeteria where guests can have a homemade meal. It is in this lobby building where Viv first comes into contact with Horror, Sluggsy, and Bond. Later the characters all move to individual cabins in order to sleep. Instead of sleeping, however, Horror and Sluggsy set the motel on fire, presumably to help the owner claim insurance money.

The setting of the novel is important because it provides both a secluded location for the crime that will take place and a motive for this crime. The Dreamy Pines Motor Court is a secluded place, located between two major cities but not close enough to intrude on its privacy. If it had not been so secluded, it might not have been as easy for Horror and Sluggsy to hold Viv hostage. The Dreamy Pines Motor Court is also losing a great deal of money, giving the owner motivation to want to have it burned. Horror and Sluggsy have been hired by the owner to burn the place down and make it look like Viv was responsible, causing the fire with a gas burning lamp. The setting works because it allows the motivation and the location for the plot.



Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is simple English. At the beginning, when Viv relates her life living in Quebec, she includes some words in French, which is the language she grows up speaking. Later, when Viv meets Kurt, she also includes many words in German because Kurt is German. However, the rest of the novel is written in simple English, the type of English one would expect an educated young woman to speak. When Sluggsy and Horror enter the narration, they have their own language filled with slang words that Bond calls mobster speech. Bond attempts to teach Viv some of this language, giving her definitions of some of the words and phrases she does not understand.

The language in this novel works because it is the type of language a woman like Viv would speak and write in. The novel is written as though Viv has written the story in a journal or diary, therefore it is important that the language she uses is the type of language a woman like her would use in everyday life. If the writer had chosen to use more educated language, or even less educated language, it would have taken away some of the authenticity of the narration. The addition of the foreign phrases, while perhaps overused, is also appropriate because they are languages Viv has been exposed to throughout her life. It is also appropriate that Bond should understand and be able to help Viv understand the slang Horror and Sluggsy speak. It is for these reasons that the language of the novel serves the plot.

Structure

The novel is divided in three parts, each appropriately named for the events that take place within each part. There are fifteen chapters, each approximately ten pages long. The chapters also have titles which describe some action or dialogue that takes place within its pages. These titles are helpful in aiding the reader keep track of the direction of the plot. There is a chapter index at the beginning of the novel and a map that shows the layout of the motel and the directions in which one would have to drive to arrive at one of the nearby towns. This map helps the reader to orient themselves and understand the isolation of the motel.

The novel has one main plot. The plot involves the difficult life Viv has lived, especially in her relationships with men. The story begins after Viv has arrived at the Dreamy Pines Motor Court and moves back in time in flashbacks to explain why Viv is in America and the trouble with men that has brought her here. Viv is alone at the motel because she has agreed to a job there to help replenish her travel money. While awaiting the arrival of the owner, Viv is besieged by two mobsters whose intentions are unclear to her. Before these men can harm Viv, James Bond arrives at the motel, suffering a flat tire. Bond becomes aware of what is happening and saves Viv's life when the mobsters attempt to burn the motel down with her inside. The plot is simple and straightforward, told in a linear fashion that helps keep the reader from becoming confused.



Quotes

"I was running away. I was running away from England, from my childhood, from the winter, from a sequence of untidy, unattractive love-affairs, from the few sticks of furniture and jumble of overworn clothes that my London life had collected around me; and I was running away from drabness, fustiness, snobbery, the claustrophobia of close horizons, and from my inability, although I am quite an attractive rat, to make headway in the rat-race. In fact I was running away from almost everything except the law." Part One, Me, Chapter 1, Scaredy Cat, p. 15.

"So now my eyes filled with tears—not because of Derek, but because of the sweet pain of boy and girl and sunshine and first love with its tunes and snapshots and letters 'Sealed with a Loving Kiss.'"

Part One, Me, Chapter 2, Dear Dead Days, pp. 29-30.

"It takes a long time to write these things, but only minutes to remember them...."

Part One, Me, Chapter 3, Spring's Awakening, p. 40.

"I hurried up the street and turned down Windsor Hill, hugging the wall, expecting people to turn and point. 'There she goes!' 'That's her!' 'Filthy little swine!'"

Part One, Me, Chapter 3, Spring's Awakening, p. 52.

"Well, it took just ten minutes to break my heart and about another six months to mend it."

Part One, Me, Chapter 4, Dear Viv, p. 59.

"I admitted to myself that I was becoming a vegetable, a docile Hausfrau, walking, in my mind, six paces behind him on the street like some native bearer, but I also had to admit that I was happy, contented, and carefree, and that I didn't really yearn for any other kind of life."

Part One, Me, Chapter 5, A Bird with a Wing Down, p. 75.

"Rape? Kill? What did I think was really going to happen to me? I didn't know. I only knew that I was in desperate trouble."

Part Two, Them, Chapter 8, Dynamite from Nightmare-Land, p. 111.

"The simple act of living, how precious it was! If I got out of this, I would know it forever. I would be grateful for every breath I breathed, every meal I ate, every night I felt the cool kiss of sheets, the peace of a bed behind a closed, locked door."

Part Two, Them, Chapter 9, Then I Began to Scream, p. 123.



"At first glance I inwardly groaned—God it's another of them! He stood there so quiet and controlled and somehow with the same quality of deadliness as the others. And he wore that uniform that the films make one associate with gangsters—a dark-blue belted raincoat and soft black hat pulled rather far down. He was good-looking in a dark, rather cruel way, and a scar showed whitely down his left cheek. I quickly put my hand up to hide my nakedness. The he smiled and suddenly I thought I might be all right."
Part Three, Him, Chapter 10, Whassat?, p. 132.

"So it was only five hours since all this had begun! It could have been weeks. My former life seemed almost years away. Even last evening, when I had sat and thought about that life, was difficult to remember. Everything had suddenly been erased. Fear and pain and danger had taken over." Part Three, Him, Chapter 13, The Crash of Guns, p. 172.

"Now I realized why he had lain like that, with his right hand doubled under the pillow. I guessed that he always slept like that. I thought his must be rather like a fireman's life, always waiting for a call. I thought how extraordinary it must be to have danger as your business."
Part Three, Him, Chapter 14, Bimbo, p. 193.

"A secret agent? I didn't care what he did. A number? I had forgotten it. I knew exactly who he was and what he was. And everything, every smallest detail, would be written on my heart forever." Part Three, Him, Chapter 15, The Writing on my Heart, p. 211.



Topics for Discussion

Why is Viv in America? Is Viv running away from England or is she running away from her failed romances? Is Viv correct in assuming that she is simply not sophisticated enough to live in a large city like London? Does London have anything to do with her failed relationships?

Why does Derek not allow Viv to meet his friends or family? Is Derek using Viv throughout their relationship? Why does Derek break up with Viv? Should Viv have seen through Derek's protestations of love?

Why does Kurt become upset when Viv tells him of her pregnancy? Should Kurt have taken more responsibility for her condition? Did Viv really believe she and Kurt would be married? Was Viv happy in her relationship with Kurt? Or was Viv more in love with the idea of being in love?

Why does Viv decide to drive across America? What is Viv hoping to accomplish with this trip? Is Viv looking for something outside of herself or is she attempting to get to know her own desires? Is it a good idea for a woman like Viv to travel alone?

Why do the Phanceys act so strangely toward Viv on their final day together? Did the Phanceys hire Viv intending to use her in the plot to burn the motel? Compare and contrast Viv's relationships with Derek and Kurt with her decision to trust the Phanceys. What are the similarities? What is different? Why does Viv continue to make these unfortunate choices?

Why does Bond share his reasons for being in America with Viv? Why does Bond become involved in Viv's troubles? Is Bond similar to Viv when it comes to trust and quick affections? Is Bond in love with Viv or is he just doing what he believes is right?

Why does the cop at the end of the novel tell Viv not to fall in love with Bond? Is the cop crossing a line by doing this? Is the cop correct in his warnings? Does Viv take his warning seriously?