

# **You Only Live Twice Study Guide**

**You Only Live Twice by Ian Fleming**

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



# Contents

<a href="#">You Only Live Twice Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Scissors Cut Paper.....</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Curtains for Bond?.....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">The Impossible Mission.....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Dikko on the Ginza.....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">MAGIC 44.....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Tiger, Tiger!.....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">The Death Collector.....</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">Slay It With Flowers.....</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">Instant Japan.....</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">Advanced Studies.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Anatomy Class.....</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">Appointment in Samara.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Kissy Suzuki.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">One Golden Day.....</a>	<a href="#">21</a>
<a href="#">The Six Guardians.....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">The Lovesome Spot.....</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">Something Evil Comes This Way.....</a>	<a href="#">24</a>
<a href="#">Oubliette.....</a>	<a href="#">25</a>
<a href="#">The Question Room.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Blood and Thunder.....</a>	<a href="#">27</a>
<a href="#">Obit.....</a>	<a href="#">28</a>
<a href="#">Sparrows Tears.....</a>	<a href="#">29</a>



Characters..... 31

Objects/Places..... 35

Themes..... 37

Style..... 39

Quotes..... 41

Topics for Discussion..... 42



# Plot Summary

In *You Only Live Twice* by Ian Fleming, James Bond is dealing with the death of his new wife Tracy, who has been shot to death by his arch nemesis, Ernst Stavro Blofeld. Bond is devastated and trying to pick up the pieces of his old life. Unfortunately, his grief gives way to carelessness and forgetfulness, as he becomes accident prone and begins making mistakes that almost get himself and others killed.

His boss, M, the head of British Secret Intelligence, is close to telling him to "shape up or ship out," but Sir James Molony, known to be the best neurologist in England and connected to the Secret Service advises him to send Bond on an impossible mission that will call all of Bond's talents to the surface.

Bond is assigned a project in Japan where his mission is to get information about a spy inside of the Soviet Union. His objective is to get information out of the head of the Japanese secret service, Tiger Tanaka. However, Tiger has plans for Bond of his own. After befriending him, he lets Bond in on a secret plan between Japan and Russia involving nuclear material. He then requests for Bond to assassinate Dr. Guntram Shatterhand, the operator of a resort where people went to go on a permanent vacation, otherwise known as the "garden of death."

Bond is put through a training camp that trains him to fit in with the masses. His appearance is changed, and he is given the name of Taro Todoroki. It is while surveying the compound where the suicides take place that he discovers that Dr. Shatterhand is actually one Ernst Stavro Blofeld, the man who killed his wife a mere nine months before. When asked by Tiger if he knows the man in the picture, he makes an instant decision. He decides to deny it and seek his own revenge.

Tiger tells Bond, now Taro, he can only take him so far. So, he is going to have him go to the compound with someone who can complete his training, a twenty-three-year-old, former Japanese movie star by the name of Kissy Suzuki. Kissy helps Bond in his training until he convinces her to help him find the compound. She believes him to be sent by gods to kill Shatterhand to release Japan from Shatterhand's evil grasp. Bond goes along with it.

He gets inside the compound grounds and explores the grounds, although carefully to find out how he can get inside to kill Shatterhand and his wife. It is here that he witnesses the evil firsthand that the garden really can dispense. He sees two different deaths, one involving a man who appeared to be poisoned and threw himself into a lake of piranhas.

Bond sneaks into the castle late the next evening and feels he is home free. He's then caught by a guard patrolling below, knocking him out. He comes to, facing his enemy. Bond still pretends to be a Japanese fisherman until his cover is blown by Irma, Shatterhand's wife.



When confronted as to why he plotted to threaten the world with nuclear weapons, Blofeld, known as Shatterhand, confesses that he is just doing humanity a favor. He believes that he is the moral judge of all nations, and he alone can dispense justice to punish their sinful nature and back them back to reasoning.

Bond and Blofeld engage in a swordfight in which Bond kills Blofeld. On his way to escaping the destruction of the compound, he feels something hit him in the head. When he comes to, he is with Kissy Suzuki and her family, with no memory of himself or anything that happened.

Meanwhile, everyone else believes he has died a hero. Unbeknown to Bond, Suzuki discovers who he is and decides to keep him for herself. She soon becomes pregnant with his child. She hopes he will propose when she announces her pregnancy. However, this is never approached in the book as Bond shows her a piece of paper that bears the name Vladiostok. He wants to know if this has something to do with him. All she can do is agree to accompany him there, and so Bond's saga continues into another story.



# Scissors Cut Paper

## Scissors Cut Paper Summary

James Bond is dealing with the death of his new wife, Tracy, who was shot and killed by Bond's nemesis, Ernst Stavro Blofeld just nine months ago. Bond is devastated and trying to pick up the pieces of his life and move on the best he can. Unfortunately, his grief makes him careless and accident prone. He begins to make mistakes that nearly cost him his life and the lives of others.

The book opens to a geisha party where James Bond and Tiger Tanaka are attending. Bond is being entertained. He and Tanaka are playing a game, most commonly known as rock paper scissors, all while enjoying sake shots.

Tanaka calls Bond, Bondo-san, due to the fact that James is hard to pronounce in Japanese. They decide to go best out of three. They raise their fists and throw the first hand. Tanaka throws a stone, and Bond throws paper or the flat hand. Bond wins. They go again, this time with Tanaka winning. They continue to play.

On their last game, Bond wins with paper. Afterwards, Tanaka invites Bond to his home to discuss a business matter. Once there, Tiger says he has a secret that he wants Bond to know. If he were to betray his trust, he says, "I would have no alternative but to remove you from the earth."

## Scissors Cut Paper Analysis

Bond and Tiger play a game of rock paper scissors in a geisha party. They play several rounds, with Bond winning overall. The chapter shows the camaraderie and competition between the two men.

Tiger invites Bond to his home to discuss business. It is a significant event to be invited to a home in Japan. When there, Tiger shows the difference in the two cultures by telling Bond that in America, people close the doors and windows when they have secrets. In Japan, they open everything up so people can't hear through the thin walls.



# Curtains for Bond?

## Curtains for Bond? Summary

The story flips back to a month earlier. Bond's boss, M, the head of British Secret Service, meets a friend and co-worker for lunch at a restaurant for a chat. M seems to have something on his mind. When pressed, he reveals that he is concerned about Bond.

Bond's wife was murdered by his arch nemesis, Ernst Stravro Blofeld. Bond has become distraught after Tracy's death and is taking unnecessary risks, risking the lives of others and himself. M confesses to Molony that he is considering firing Bond or at least putting him in a different department where he would not be a harm to himself or anyone else. Molony convinces M to give Bond just one more chance to redeem himself by giving him a mission that he more than likely couldn't complete, but would be able to use to put all his senses back into focus.

The story flips to Bond wandering around a garden in a park. He is contemplating his life without his wife and the state of his health. He had been to every doctor, psychiatrist, and had every test known to man. All contend that he is healthy. After trying everything, he has been told to basically get control of his manhood again and be with another woman.

## Curtains for Bond? Analysis

With M considering Bond's firing, his friend, Dr. James Molony, steps in to offer a solution to give Bond one more chance. Molony suggests to send Bond on a mission that is virtually impossible, but will take advantage of all his talents to throw him back into his old self. Molony's reasoning is that when some people go through shock, putting them in a situation where every skill they have can be put to the test can bring them back from the brink.

The chapter concludes with Bond feeling lost in a park near where he works and remembering the death of his wife. He contemplates his health and how he got to where he is.



# The Impossible Mission

## The Impossible Mission Summary

Bond is summoned into M's office all ready to hand in his resignation. He feels guilty for letting his boss, the service and himself down. M is sitting in his desk across from an empty chair.

Bond sits down and offers his resignation. To his surprise, he is offered a new project. He is renamed 7777 and given what seems to be a promotion. The catch is that he has to go to Japan to get information out of the head of the Japanese Secret Service, Tiger Tanaka, about some secret deals going on.

M describes Tiger to Bond as a man who studied at Oxford and spied for Japan before the war. He joined the Kempeitai or a Gestapo, and was trained to be a kami-kaze, but never completed the mission due to the surrender of Japan.

Bond says that as soon as he returns from the mission, he plans to retain his old number, 007. He is told by Bill Tanner, the Chief of Staff and his closest friend, that he will be set up with an Australian passport. He will be working with diplomat status as the right-hand man to Richard Lovelace Henderson, a.k.a. Dikko, as a go-between for information between Britain and Australia.

Bond is excited that he has another chance, even realizing that this could be his last one. He accepts. The rest of the chapter focuses on Bond concentrating on his mission while flying out to Japan.

## The Impossible Mission Analysis

Bond comes to M's office to hear of his fate. He is expecting to be fired and is surprised when offered a promotion instead. His boss tells him he has a project that he feels only Bond can complete in Japan. M tells Bond that the assignment is impossible, but he feels he is the only one for the job. M tells Bond that he wants him to get information from the head of the Japanese secret service, Tiger Tanaka.

Tiger Tanaka is a man who has one foot in the past and one foot in the present. He is educated by Western-style schools and has knowledge of the culture. Yet, he also wishes to remain true to his heritage.



# Dikko on the Ginza

## Dikko on the Ginza Summary

Bond meets up with Dikko of Her Majesty's Australian Diplomatic Corps at the Japanese Air Lines. After dropping his things off at his hotel, the Okura, Bond and Dikko went out for a night of drinking.

The next day, at another bar called Melody's located off the Ginza, Bond and Dikko are sitting at a table. Dikko slams his fist on the table and recites phrases. He goes to reach under the table, but then goes for his sake. Bond inquires as to what is going on. Dikko angrily replies that they are being listened in on by Tiger's men. He proceeds to talk into the table to tell Tiger what he thinks of him.

Dikko gives Bond advice on how to deal with Tiger. He calls Tiger a career man who is very deep, a demokorasu. He also says that no matter how cultured and educated Tiger is, he stays true to his culture. He talks about having ON or respect and saving face. He explained that in Japan, it is very important to maintain a level of respect with superiors, no matter what.

## Dikko on the Ginza Analysis

The ON that Dikko describes is all about respect. It is important to note that in Japanese culture it is vital to maintain respect with parents, elders, and all authority. The act of saving face is keeping self-respect. To lose it is never considered. Dikko describes the topic of being demokorasu or western-like. He tells Bond that no matter how evolved every culture becomes, at their core, people are what they are by blood.



# MAGIC 44

## MAGIC 44 Summary

Dikko comes to take Bond to meet Tiger. He complains of having a futsukayoi or honorable hangover. They visit the Bamboo Bar where Dikko orders a double brandy and ginger ale. He attempts to rehash what happened the night. Bond reminds him how he philosophized on the world's affairs, and smacked a woman's bottom.

They leave the bar and arrive at a building entitled The Bureau of All-Asian Folkways. Dikko leads Bond through a building that appeared to Bond to be a museum. They went to a door that was marked as the Coordination department. Bond is led by Dikko down a long hallway with rooms on either side where men were sitting at their desks. They go through another hall marked International Relations and into endless other offices like the Visual Presentation Bureau and the Documentation, which was a large library with even more people at their desks.

Finally, they come to a man sitting at a desk near an entrance. Dikko tells Bond that this is where the undercover work begins. They go behind a wall of bookshelves to find a little room with the signs stating, 'Proposed Extension to Documentation Department. Danger! Construction work in progress.' There were sounds of saws and drilling from behind the wall. To Bond's surprise, it's a tape recorder.

They step into a small room, and someone surveys them through a peephole. A door opens to reveal a man. Dikko tells him some things and leaves. Bond is taken to meet Tiger. They chat for a while and then Bond inquires about Magic 44. Tiger says he will reveal more about it, but Bond must swear an oath of secrecy. He does so.

Tiger gives him a sheet of paper that tells him all he needs to know. Entailed was a secret plan by Russia to test fire nuclear weapons on the 12th of September of that year at Zovaya Zemlya. The letter mentions a Number One who is rumored to be Khrushchev. They expected that there would be outrage in the Arctic, the North Pacific, and in Alaska, as well as America. The letter went on to say that if American bases were not removed from Britain, the missile would be fired again on England, with threats occurring on other continents until Russia would be guaranteed security.

## MAGIC 44 Analysis

Bond comes to Japan not knowing anything about the Magic 44 and is shocked to find out that is a plot against his own country involving nuclear weapons. He is even more surprised that Japan is withholding the secret.

Secrecy is highlighted in this chapter as everything The Bureau of All-Asian Folkways appears to be a cover for Tiger's undercover spy operation involving Magic 44. The



building that houses the bureau is described as a maze that leads to a nightingale floor or secret room that takes them to a whole underground network.

The reason for why Tiger would betray his country's secret comes out in this chapter. He tells Bond that England was very good to him. He feels he did not treat them the same way and is in debt to England.



# Tiger, Tiger!

## Tiger, Tiger! Summary

The story flips forward a month. Bond begins to wonder what his mission in Japan really is. He spends time with Tiger and Dikko. Tiger discusses with Bond The Macao or Blue Route where the bomb had been tested. Bond was asked to come to Tiger's hideout in the basement of the Bureau of the All-Asian Folkways. Tiger told him that he would reveal some secrets, but Bond could not divulge the information. He described the Western culture in his country as, "Scuola di Coca-Cola," meaning baseball, arcades, hot dogs, which in his words was causing a denial of the culture in the homeland.

Bond jumps to the defense of the West and says that he personally knows many Americans who are nothing like what Tiger has described. Tiger apologizes, bows to Bond out of respect, and admits he was venting out of anger. He then goes on to say that most foreigners or gaijin in the country are regarded as eccentric, but harmless. However, they consider one of them as not just offensive, but insane due to the fact that he understands the psychology of the people in the country and uses it against them. Tiger tells Bond that the man is a collector. When prompted what he collects, he says...death.

## Tiger, Tiger! Analysis

Tiger describes the new culture of the West as an occupation. The landscape of the country is being changed by foreigners or gaijin who bring their culture that includes hot dogs, hamburgers, movies, Hollywood and popular culture. Tiger tells Bond that many newcomers are coming in with no knowledge or desire to assimilate in the culture. The attitude toward gaijin is apparent in this chapter as it seems that many do not trust those who are coming into the country.



# The Death Collector

## The Death Collector Summary

Bond is incredulous when he asks if the man actually kills people. Tiger explains that he draws people into ending their lives. He explains that he provides a resort that in just 6 months has allowed over 500 people to commit suicide.

It turns out that the doctor had come to Japan with his wife, Frau Emmy Shatterhand. They came into Japan with Swiss passports and were described as horticulturalists and botanists. They were interested in opening up an exotic garden in Japan. After announcing that they were willing to invest one million pounds in the project, they were given clearance and a ten year residence permit. The doctor traveled the country and found a castle in Kyushu, on the southern-most island. The property was very remote and particularly volcanic. It was close to Fukuoka, used at one time to stave off Korean attacks. The castle chosen by the doctor was once occupied by a rich textile family. The doctor contracted designers and builders, and had lots of plants and soil brought in. They recruited a staff from The Black Dragon Society, an underground secret society.

Tiger tells Bond that the 'good' doctor constructed a 'garden of death.' He goes on to describe poisonous vegetation, piranha, spiders, snakes, and other various poisons that cause such effects as deliriousness, drunkenness, seizures, vomiting, irritation, pain, shock, asphyxiation, coma, fainting and paralysis.

## The Death Collector Analysis

Dr. Shatterhand's park was never meant to be open to the public, but to be used for research. It became a haven for suicides and was glamorized as a resort to end a person's life.

The park's poisons included Oleander, Guiana poison-tree, Jamaica dogwood, Poison ivy, Castor bean plant, East Indian snakewood and various others. They were plants that were found from all over the world in such places as South America, Madagascar, North Africa, India, the Philippines and West Indies.



# Slay It With Flowers

## Slay It With Flowers Summary

Tiger tells Bond why the death collector has not yet been arrested and prosecuted.. He asks Bond if he has read the latest story in the evening edition of the Asahi. When Bond says no, Tiger accounts a story of a young man in the suburbs of Tokyo that failed twice to get into the college of his choice. He wandered into a construction site near his home. He noticed that a pile-driver was working, so he busted through the workers. When it came down, he laid his head on the block under it.

Bond is shocked and asks what the young man's motivation was. Tiger explains that the man had brought dishonor on his parents and ancestors by failing to get into the college. He states that many see it as a noble option and dishonor can be wiped away as a form of repentance. Bond is flabbergasted. He states that the young man could have gone to another school or tried something else. He says suicide shouldn't be considered an option.

Tiger shrugs it off and says there is no stigma for suicide in Japan. In fact, the word for suicide is jisatsu or self-murder. He cited a famous folktale where forty-seven bodyguards or ronin planned to avenge their lord, Asano, who was assassinated. They met at a place called Ako and did something called hara-kiri or cutting their stomachs as they were not able to save their lord. He goes on to tell Bond of the lure of the garden and how even though the doctor had not wanted it open to the public, it has become like an advertisement for suicide. Bond inquires on why the government does not prosecute the doctor. Tiger says that in the minds of his society, the doctor is just providing a service to the community.

Bond inquires how Tanaka had found out about the matter. He tells him that a man was found with his lower half badly burned, repeating a haiku about dragonflies, "Desolation! Pink dragonflies flitting above the graves." Tiger tells Bond he waited for someone to come to help. It turned out to be Bond. Bond says he is tired and raises to leave to go to his room for bed. Tiger tells him to sit back down and that he will leave the next day on the twelve-twenty from Tokyo main station to Fukuoka. From that moment on, he is under his orders. Bond is surprised. When he asks why, Tiger tells him that he said a few days ago Bond told him he would do whatever Tiger needed him to do to gain access to Magic 44. Now, he wants Bond to kill Dr. Shatterhand.

## Slay It With Flowers Analysis

The attitude about suicide is conveyed as an everyday occurrence in the work. The fact that there is no stigma on suicide is highlighted several times throughout the work. Tiger tells Bond the young man had killed himself, because he brought shame on his family and ancestors. Suicide was an accepted means of atonement.



# Instant Japan

## Instant Japan Summary

The next day, Tiger takes Bond to a bathhouse where he is ordered into a box for ten minutes. Then, he is removed and a dye applied to him, changing his appearance. His hair is cut into the Japanese style. Tiger tells Bond he will go through training to learn the way of life in Japan and to enjoy each new experience.

Tiger and Bond make their way to the station where Tiger pushes his way on board. Bond, however, waits for some women to get on board. Tiger scolds him and tells him to just push his way on board. He also tells Bond that no swear words are allowed, to Bond's astonishment. Tiger tells Bond to be stoic and never angry. He instructs Bond that if he must swear, the closest thing he can say is Shimata which translates to 'I have made a mistake'.

They go to the buffet car to have a drink and get something to eat, but notice that someone is watching them. It is a man wearing a mask or mask. As they leave the train, Bond realizes his pocket was picked, and they suspect it was by the man in the mask. Tiger tells Bond that his secret identity is a coal miner from Fukuoka who is unable to hear. He is given a card that states it.

## Instant Japan Analysis

Tiger puts Bond through training for his mission to kill the doctor. He instructs Bond to not swear, to show stoicism at all times, and to show respect to only men. The chapter details many aspects of Japanese society at that time.

Tiger tells Bond that his secret identity is of a coal miner from Fukuoka, being that he is tall. Tiger gives Bond a card stating a disability. If he is asked any questions, he should show the card to not be bothered. Bond still cannot wrap his head around the idea, although he tries to humor Tiger and befriend him. He knows he is still very much out of place in the culture and is trying to find his place while he is there.

# Advanced Studies

## Advanced Studies Summary

Tiger and Bond wander through the Outer Shrine of Ise, the biggest temple of Shintoism. People are saying their prayers to the sun goddess, and Tiger instructs Bond to do the same as to not draw attention to himself. He does so, although uncomfortably, as it seems different to him.

Tiger asks Bond afterward what he saw around him. He says he saw many attractive girls that were too young for him. Tiger tells him that a day ago, he would have been singled out as a foreigner. Tiger puts Bond through a series of tests, all of which he passes. They travel to Kyoto where Tiger's training school is located. There, they watch the training commence and witness firsthand an accident. One man who was training to climb a two-hundred foot wall lost his footing. He fell into the moat below and drowned. It was treated as an everyday occurrence.

## Advanced Studies Analysis

Tiger plans to put Bond through a series of tests. When Tiger and Bond arrive at a farmhouse in Kyoto, Tiger tells Bond to swig some schochu or pure gin in his mouth and spray it over a cow's back. He then tells him to rub it into the cow's back.

They are escorted into a restaurant where they are served Kobe beef. While they eat, they chat about the ninja ways. The chapter gives insight into Tiger's motivation. He is a Black Belt of the Seventh Dan, but never chose to go higher as he states that he would have had to give up all earthly pleasures to achieve it.



# Anatomy Class

## Anatomy Class Summary

That night, Bond is allowed to stay in a nice hotel in Kyoto, the Miyako. As Tiger has plans that evening, Bond watches a Japanese series on television, "The Seven Detectives."

The next day, Tiger and Bond visit what was once a house of ill-repute, now turned into a national monument as prostitution was illegal in Japan. After showing respect to the curators by bowing, Bond became impatient and complained. Tiger told him how the place was before it became a museum. He tells a story of people eating, drinking and writing haikus.

Tiger tells Bond of many poets who wrote haikus. One in particular, Basho, lived in the seventeenth century and wrote haikus that had seventeen syllables. He recites a few to no avail. Bond couldn't get the hang of them. So, he makes up his own. "You only live twice: Once when you are born and once when you look death in the face."

They come to Beppu on the south of Kyushu at sunset. They visit some of the sites where the fumaroles were bubbling. These sites were called hells, and the title fit them to a tee. Bond suddenly notices a large red wheel under a padlock adorned by a sign that had a skull and crossbones. He asks Tiger what it is and is told that it is the wheel that can destroy the resort if screwed down.

## Anatomy Class Analysis

Tiger tries to teach Bond how to write haiku's. He recites several of them for Bond to no avail. Tiger tries to draw Bond in by teaching him how to write haikus. Tiger asks him to write a one. Bond has heard of Caesar and Balbus. He has studied Latin and Greek. Writing a haiku is difficult at first as he is unfamiliar with the practice.

When he succeeds, Tiger is pleased. It shows a sincerity of trying to not just accomplish the mission, but to try to absorb the culture and find his place in it. Tiger questions Bond if the haiku is written about his mission, and he says yes. Tiger is impressed by Bond's resolve to get the job done, no matter what the cost.



# Appointment in Samara

## Appointment in Samara Summary

It was the next morning and, at promptly six a.m., the Prefect of Police in Fukuoka sent a car for Tiger and Bond with tow policeman in the front seat. They were driving along a freeway when they noticed they were being followed. Bond realizes it could be the man who stole his wallet on the train. The driver comes up on their side. He is wearing a white mask and reaches inside his jacket. Bond exclaims to watch out as it looks like he may be armed. The corporal driving the car leaps out of the window and tackles the man into a ditch, stabbing him to death. They stop the car, and Tiger goes to check on the man. He is surprised to see that he is a Black Dragon. The policemen check the man's cloths to see that he has Bond's wallet and journal with all of the locations on their journey detailed within.

Tiger shows Bond the castle. Bond's heart sinks as it appears to be a virtual fortress with a large moat and huge cliff. There's also a large wall with a ten foot drop into a park surrounding the property and a lake. Tiger tells Bond he will be placed an Kuro Island with the Ama tribe who live by diving for awabi or abalone shells. Bond will stay with a family who have a twenty-three-year-old daughter, named Kissy Suzuki. She's a former Japanese movie star who was in a film in America and disliked Hollywood and everything having to do with celebrity. She moved back to Japan and her Ama culture. Tiger tells Bond that Kissy will complete his training, but he is not to tell anything about his mission.

Tiger instructs Bond on how to get up to the castle. He would wear a ninja outfit which would protect him from poisons from the castles. He would hide inside the park until he found an opportunity to get inside the castle and then kill the doctor and his wife. Bond and Tiger conduct surveillance on the property. Tiger hands him a blow-up picture of the doctor's passport. It's then that Bond realizes that he recognizes the doctor. It is the same man who killed his wife! Dr. Guntram Shatterhand turns out to be Ernst Stavro Blofeld. Bond is understandably livid. Tiger is shocked at the look of anger on Bond's face. Bond asks if they have a picture of the doctor's wife. When he's given one, he notices it is Irma Bunt, Blofeld's wife. He wonders if it was fate that he found them to avenge his wife's murder.

Tiger asks if Bond knows the people in the photographs. Bond knows that if he says yes, the case would be taken out of his hands immediately and put into the hands of the CIA and Japanese Secret Service. So, he does the only thing he feels he can do in this situation. He denies it.



## Appointment in Samara Analysis

This is when the novel takes a turn from focusing on Tiger's attempt to have Bond complete the mission to the stalking of Bond by an unknown associate of Blofeld and attempted assassination. Bond is identified in his journal as an unknown gaijin that draws suspicion.

The attempted assassination of Bond throws the story into a new light. Bond is moved to Kuro Island to stay with the Ama people for his protection and is to hide his real identity. This is when the story changes from focusing on the friendship and partnership of Bond and Tiger to Bond's desire to have revenge for the death of his wife.



# Kissy Suzuki

## Kissy Suzuki Summary

Bond and Tiger board a boat and head to the Sea of Genkai to the island where Bond would meet Kissy and her family to complete his training. Tiger notices that something is weighing heavily on Bond's mind. He tries to cheer him up by reminding him of all the new experiences he would soon have and the new women he would meet, especially Kissy, known as the Japanese Greta Garbo.

Bond couldn't keep his mind off the fact that Dr. Shatterhand, the same man who came into Japan with such distinction, was also Ernst Stavro Blofeld, the same man who created SPECTRE, the Special Executive for Counter-Intelligence, Terrorism, Revenge and Extortion. He was also the same man who killed Bond's wife a mere nine months earlier. Bond couldn't get over how this man could go into hiding and into a country that embraced suicide, using it for his own pleasure.

They make their way to Kuro Island, which Bond felt looked a bit like Alcatraz. They were met by the elders of the community, as well as a Shinto priest. Bond was introduced as an anthropologist who had come to study the village's way of life. Before they met Kissy and her family, Tiger tells Bond that his name is to be Taro Todoroki, meaning first son of thunder in Japanese. Bond meets her family who were honored to have someone of his reputation in their home. It was translated to him that although they were not familiar with the ways of the West, their daughter could assist Bond. He was happy that Kissy was so familiar with the Western ways, and he did not have to act so formally around her. He was told that Kissy's father had rheumatism and could not row the boat for the catching of awabi. They requested that Bond take his place for the time being. He bowed in respect and said he would be honored to do so.

Before he leaves, Tiger offers Bond an antidote to whatever poisons he might encounter in the garden. Bond refuses it and reminds him of his haiku. His host family told him to say goodbye to Tiger. He would be going back with them.

## Kissy Suzuki Analysis

Tiger takes Bond to Kuro Island to meet Kissy and her family to complete his training. There is apprehension when he goes to leave as he offers Bond a large brown pill as an antidote to any poison he may encounter in the garden. Bond refuses and repeats a line from his self-written haiku, "You only live twice." He conveys to Tiger that whatever happens is what will be.



# One Golden Day

## One Golden Day Summary

Bond wakes up to a gold and blue sky and goes out to eat a breakfast of rice and bean curd. He slept in a sitting room with tatami mats, a house shrine, small furniture, and the house cricket. Kissy comes to meet him to practice swimming for his training. She is wearing a long, white cotton nightdress and a white kerchief that keeps her hair tied up. Her arms and feet are peeking out of the gown. Bond catches her in a lie when she explains that it is worn out of respect for him. He says he believes it is because she wants to ward off any impure thoughts he might have of her. He assures her she is safe, at least for now.

Bond's jealousy flares when Kissy tells him that he will need to be nice to David. He thinks he will have to share Kissy's attention with another man. To his surprise, David is a cormorant or large aquatic bird. They go rowing on a boat to find fish and toss fish at David. They chat about various things and speculate when Kissy's father would be well again. Bond suggests Kissy could go back to making films, to her disgust. They continue fishing and diving so that he can continue his training for what he would need to do to find his way into the castle to kill the man who killed his wife. But in the meantime, in his mind, spending time with Kissy isn't so bad either.

## One Golden Day Analysis

At this point, the focus turns to Kissy and Bond. Bond finds favor with Kissy by taking her stricken father's place as her boatman and helping catch awabi shells. Kissy tells Bond to be kind to David which sparks his jealous side as he does not want to share her with another man. To his surprise, David is a large aquatic bird.

The chapter covers the budding attraction between Bond and Kissy. They were boating on the water, and Bond is sweating profusely. Kissy undoes her kerchief and wipes the sweat off him. Bond smiles in her eyes, and she is described as having a rosy tint to her gold skin with long, wavy black hair and dark brown highlights. Her teeth are straight, and she has long arms and legs.



# The Six Guardians

## The Six Guardians Summary

The following day, Kissy and Bond go out training again. While they on a break, he asks her if she knows about the castle to which she tells him it was a taboo subject on the island. She tells Bond of how many elders tell stories that the gaijin were bad for the country and prophesied of one who would come to epitomize all evil. She explains to Bond of a legend that the Six Guardians that were statues on the other side of the island would send a man to slay the King of Death, as he was known.

Bond convinces Kissy to take him to see the castle. She believes he is the man sent by the guardians. He tells her he is a foreigner and has approval. She accepts it and agrees to help. She takes him to the site where the guardians have been erected for their approval. While going through the traditional prayer, he wonders briefly to himself if the heads of the statues nodded.

## The Six Guardians Analysis

Bond asks Kissy about the the castle to which she tells him no one ever talks about it. She says that the Ama people who live on the island are superstitious and believe the devil himself is residing near their home. She tells Bond that the people of the island and many outside of it are suspicious of gaijin, and the doctor is particularly evil.

Kissy accounts a story that the Six Guardians who watch over the island will send someone to kill the King of Death or Dr. Shatterhand, a.k.a. Ernst Stavro Blofeld. Kissy questions Bond about his real purpose for being on the island, and he tells her that he needs to see the castle. Kissy suspects that Bond is the man The Six Guardians sent to kill Blofeld. She asks him what he will do once he has completed his mission. Bond tells her he will have to return to England. Kissy tells him that she believes he will stay in Kuro as she prayed at the shrine that he would stay.



# The Lovesome Spot

## The Lovesome Spot Summary

Kissy helps Bond across the river to the castle. He leaves her behind to climb the two-hundred foot wall and makes his way over the edge. He crawls along the wall, making his way into the park and finds his way inside the grounds and into the castle. Bond sets up camp in a hut made out of sacking and waits for his opportunity.

While in his hideout, he witnesses two deaths firsthand. The first was a man who was running through the grounds with a swollen head and face. The man stops and sees the lake filled with piranha and throws himself in. The second death was a well-dressed man who looks to be a businessman who walks dignified through the garden, carrying an umbrella and mumbling unknown phrases to himself. He stood, gazed at the moon, put his umbrella under his arm, and steps into a fumarole where he sinks inside. In a sense, he was incinerated.

## The Lovesome Spot Analysis

Bond's witnessing of the deaths in the garden unnerves him. He can't understand why the garden has not been closed down or bombed. He doesn't understand why he alone is put in this position like David fighting Goliath in exchange for the information to Magic 44. He asks himself why he is there and reminds himself that he wants to avenge his wife's death. He curses his own fate and also Tiger for putting him in this position, but resolves himself to finish the mission.



# Something Evil Comes This Way

## Something Evil Comes This Way Summary

Bond waits in his hideout while he listens to everyday sounds going on in the park. There are workers in protective gear laughing and talking like people would do every day. He checks his watch and notices it is nine a.m. and decides to wait until dark after the work day ends to complete his mission.

He sees Blofeld and his wife, Irma Bunt, coming through the grounds an hour later. Blofeld is carrying a long samurai sword and wearing a spiked helmet. Irma's head is covered in a bee-keepers hat that is dark green. Bond watched to see how the workers would react around them, if they would show respect or show their true feelings for this truly hated man when he wasn't aware. However, they seemed truly respectful and totally devoted to their work.

Bond reflected on what Dikko had told him earlier, that Blofeld had been accepted, and his position was considered honorable as it seemed he was doing a service for the people. Blofeld and his wife's conversation interrupted Bond's thoughts. They talk about how to avoid the public from finding out what was occurring at the Castle and even contemplated moving to another location. Blofeld stated that he felt that one day the world would acknowledge him for his efforts. He complains that his greatness is being overlooked. Bond is almost discovered when Blofeld notices the door to the hut is open. He comes over and uses his sword to slash through sacks above Bond's back, just missing him.

## Something Evil Comes This Way Analysis

The chapter focuses on Bond's desire to get revenge on Blofeld for killing his wife. It covers his waiting in the grounds in the hut throughout the day, waiting until the workday in Japan ends, and it becomes dark so he can complete his mission.

Blofeld's motivation is covered in this chapter. He has grandiose ideas about himself and his place in the world. He appears to be narcissistic, believing that the whole world should acknowledge his greatness. He appears to have an attitude that the law does not apply to him as long as he gets what he wants. He has an attitude that it does not matter who or what he hurts as long as he achieves the status he feels he deserves.





# Oubliette

## Oubliette Summary

That evening, Bond smokes his last cigarette and amuses himself with thoughts of Kissy and what she would be doing that day, what she was eating and her activities.

At nine p.m., he sneaks out of the hut and creeps carefully across the yard, making sure that he avoids the volcanic fumaroles and all the poisonous affects in the area. He makes his way across the path that he had designated for himself and finds the door to the castle. He slips in and enters a room filled with food supplies. He climbs the stairs, making his way through darkness. He opens door after door, making his way higher through the castle and is careful not to make a sound to call attention to himself. He makes his way to one door in which the inside of the room is dimly lit. He opens the latch and, after easing the door open, finds the room to be a reception room, most likely where visitors would come. It was a beautiful room with richly colored furniture, draperies, among many other beautiful decorations.

Bond hears steps coming and hides behind one of the draperies in time to see a man come enter. The man looks around, bows and leaves. Bond sneaks down the hall toward the hallway that led to private apartments in the castle. He hears music coming from outside the door, 'Ride of the Valkyries,' playing and was pleased, thinking his task would be easy. To his surprise, he steps right into their trap and falls down an incline where he blacks out upon landing. When he comes to, he believes that he is back on the island with Kissy for a moment. Then he comes into consciousness and remembers to not reveal his true self. He also realizes that except for his traditional ninja underwear, he is naked.

Blofeld and his wife come in the room.. Blofeld questions his assistants about who Bond really is, and they state what they read on his card. He is found out unexpectedly when Blofeld asks his wife to inspect him. She sees through his disguise immediately. They decide to get information out of Bond in the question room.

## Oubliette Analysis

Bond focuses on completing his mission so that he can kill Blofeld and avenge his wife's death. He plans to get the mission completed as soon as he can so he can return to Kuro Island for a few days with Kissy. Then, he'll go back to England to receive accolade from his superiors and gain his old life back. The last thing he expects is to be captured. He falls through a trap and finds himself stripped to his underwear. The chapter focuses on Bond's vulnerability in being captured.



# The Question Room

## The Question Room Summary

Bond is led into a room with ten guards, Blofeld and his wife. He is beaten ten times with staves and kicked one of the guards between the legs in defense. He also attacked other guards with a chair. In the end, he was ordered into the Question Room.

He is put in a seat above a volcanic geyser. Blofeld tells him that the geyser goes off every fifteen minutes and being that it was eleven o'clock, it would go off at eleven-fifteen. He says that if Bond stayed in the seat, his lower half would be incinerated. If he left the seat, his identity would be confirmed. Bond sits in the chair and attempts to find something that would stop the geyser from going off, which proved to be difficult with a guard sitting in the room. At eleven-fourteen, he decided he had no alternative but to get out of the chair. He abandons his plans to conceal his identity. He sits down at a desk and lights a cigarette.

Blofeld tells him that if Bond tells him how he got here and why, he will dispense death on him quickly. Otherwise, it would be long and painful. Bond refutes the action. His adversary tells him that he is aware of formal investigations, and Bond could not be there without sanction. He demands to know who sent him. Bond refuses to admit any information. Blofeld suspects that it is Tiger and announces that he will kill Bond anyway. He quotes a phrase which translates to literally mean killing and going away.

## The Question Room Analysis

Blofeld orders Bond to tell him how he arrived. Bond's sitting on the throne symbolizes his having to make a choice. He can stay on course with the mission or reveal his true self and risk having his cover blown, therefore risk being tortured mindlessly until death. He chooses to play by his own rules and reveal his true identity, shedding the facade of his self-imposed identities to face his enemy once and for all.



# Blood and Thunder

## Blood and Thunder Summary

Blofeld tells Bond he likens himself to Frederick the Great, Nietzsche and Van Gogh. He considers himself to be a genius. He tells Bond of his plot behind Magic 44 that would push Britain out of their moral decay by threatening them with nuclear war. He goes on to glorify suicide to Bond as what he believes is a service for people who want a way out.

Bond hurls a stave at Blofeld's wife, hitting her in the head. He and Blofeld engage in a sword fight, and Bond succeeds in killing Blofeld. He stalks to the torture room and finds the wooden box with the wheel in it. He then hacks it open with his sword and closes the wheel by twisting it down. Bond realizes he needs to find a way out immediately, but there are guards in his way. He smashes a window with his sword and tears the Kimono off of Blofeld's body to cover himself. He then jumps out the window onto a balustrade terrace. The only problem is that it isn't long enough for him to get down safely. He is in the process of escape by sliding down a mooring line when he hears a loud commotion coming from inside the castle. Suddenly, something hits him in the side of the head, knocking him out.

## Blood and Thunder Analysis

Blofeld sees himself in the same company as Frederick the Great, Nietzsche and Van Gogh. He sees Bond as beneath him, as no more than a common worker bee who obeys all orders and spends his time drinking, smoking and frolicking with women. Blofeld's vision of himself is that he is judge of everyone, and he alone has the power to dispatch judgment on them. It is same attitude that drives many dictators throughout history.

When Bond is attacked on the head, he is knocked unconscious. His unconscious mind travels back to pleasant memories. In his unconscious mind, he goes to a place where he cannot be hurt by the experience. For many, including Bond, that includes childhood memories of peace and happiness.



# Obit

## Obit Summary

Bond is eulogized in *The Times*. His boss M has an obituary published that chronicles his life from beginning to end. It covers his disappearance and that he is believed to be missing or dead after a mission to Japan. The article chronicled his history. His father, Andrew Bond, from Glencoe, was Scottish, while his mother, Monique Delacroix, was Swiss from Canton de Vand. His father was a representative of the Vickers armaments firm, and Bond took after him in his knowledge of French and German languages, studying abroad.

His parents were killed when he was eleven-years-old, and he went to stay with an aunt near Canterbury. He completed his education a year later and was admitted to Eton. After two semesters, he transferred to Fettes, where his father attended, due to trouble with a student's maid. He graduated at nineteen from Fettes and entered the Ministry of Defense with the help of his father's colleague in 1941. He was given the title of RNVR. He performed to the satisfaction of his elders and was given the title of Commander at the end of the war. The article went on to chronicle Bond's achievements and reputation. It concluded by saying that his final mission was of the vital importance to the nation, and he completed it successfully. It highlighted the death of Bond's wife Teresa, the only daughter of Marc-Ange Draco of Marseilles.

## Obit Analysis

In the chapter, *Obit*, James Bond is eulogized. It goes into great length his history and upbringing to the point at where he was at his supposed death. The chapter leads the reader to believe that Bond may really be dead. It is ironic as this novel, *You Only Live Twice*, is the final work published by the writer, Ian Fleming before his death in 1964.



# Sparrows Tears

## Sparrows Tears Summary

Kissy finds Bond as he was falling off the wall into the water. She swam to him as fast as she could. When he first saw her, he believed she was his enemy and tried to hit her. She told him who she was and inquired of his knowledge of her. He had no memory of her. In fact, he has no memory of anything but Blofeld's face. Kissy rescues him and brings him back to her family's home where he had slept. He awoke and asked her who he was and how he got there. She tells him his name is Taro Todoroki, and he is her lover. She convinces him that he has fallen after climbing cliffs for seagull eggs.

Kissy convinces the elders and priest to not say anything about his presence on the island. Officials, including Tiger, came several times to find him. She tells the priest that if the day comes that he regains his memory, she would let him go. The secret was kept. Bond healed nicely, but still had no memory of anything that happened prior to his head injury.

Kissy grows impatient as she expected that she and Bond would become intimate. They enjoyed being together, but nothing was happening. Kissy decided to take action. She told her family she planned to go to the mailboat to do shopping in Fukuoka. Instead, she went to a shop called, 'The Happy Shop,' that specialized in products dealing with a sensual nature. She buys a tonic for five thousand yen that was guaranteed to work. She was to put a bit of it which included dried lizard into Bond's food that would stimulate his senses. The merchant offered to sell her a pillow book, otherwise known as the Kama Sutra, wrapped up in plain paper. She accepted it, and the love potion worked.

It was springtime and Kissy and Bond were enjoying the beautiful cherry trees and foliage in the countryside. Kissy also was wondering when she should tell Bond that she was expecting a baby. She hoped that upon hearing that, he would propose. One day, Bond shows Kissy a piece of paper with the word Vladiostok on it and inquires to its meaning. Kissy is worried as she has been trying to keep everything that may remind him of his past out of his sight. He wonders if Vladiostok, which is located in Russia, has anything to do with his past life and wants Kissy to go with him to Vladiostok. She fears for his safety, and he wonders aloud why anyone would harm a Japanese fisherman from Fukyoka.

## Sparrows Tears Analysis

The story leaves questions unanswered when Bond finds a note in his pocket with the word Vladiostok written on it. He asks Kissy to go with him there to help him see if it has anything to do with his lost memory. She reluctantly agrees. Kissy is pregnant with his child and is hoping he will propose to her. The story does not follow up on the

pregnancy. It opens the door to questions as to what happens between them and what lies in the future for Bond.



# Characters

## James Bond, CMG, RNVR, 007

James Bond, CMG, RNVR, is Commander of the Ministry of Defense in Britain. He is an agent for the British secret service under the code, 007. In this work however, he is temporarily moved to another department and his designation is renamed 7777. He is as well-known for his expertise in sleuthing as he is with his experience with the ladies. His reputation supercedes him as one the greatest spies of all time. He is devastated by the death of his wife, Tracy, and is trying to put the pieces of his life back together. His grief causes him to nearly fall apart, affecting his work to his detriment.

Bond is sent on a mission that will call all his talents to the surface, in a sense to pull him out of his funk. The mission turns out to be more than he bargained for as he discovers the mission is not just about finding out information, but involves a nuclear plot to threaten the world and an ordered assassination attempt. After the discovery that Dr. Shatterhand is really Ernst Stavro Blofeld, the man who killed his wife, Bond regains his senses and develops a plan to exact revenge on his arch nemesis. He rises to the occasion, proving that he does indeed fit the title of 007.

## Tiger Tanaka

The head of the Japanese Secret Service, Tiger studied at Oxford and returned to England to spy for Japan prior to the World War II. He joined up with the Kempeitai, which was their wartime Gestapo, and was trained as a Kami-Kaze. Tanaka is very loyal to his country and opposes the occupation of the West and its culture in Japan. Tanaka is also portrayed as a ladies man who, as Dikko puts it, enjoys samsara or wine and women. He has been married three times and paying, as Dikko refers to it, cock-tax or alimony to all three of them.

Tiger takes Bond under his tutelage to teach him the ways of Japanese life and how to assimilate into the culture as to not be noticed as a gaijin or foreigner. He renames Bond as Taro Torodoki and gives him new identities. One identity is as an anthropologist studying Japanese culture on the island of Kuro, and another is as a Japanese coal miner with a disability.

Tiger tells Bond he will give him full access to the information on Magic 44, a plot to threaten the world with nuclear weapons. He tells Bond that in return he wants Bond to assassinate Dr. Shatterhand, who came to Japan as a botanist. Shatterhand's real identity happens to be Ernst Stavro Blofeld, the man who killed James Bond's wife Tracy nine months before.



## **Dr. Guntram Shatterhand a.k.a. Ernst Stavro Blofeld**

Dr. Shatterhand is Ernst Stavro Blofeld in disguise. He's a fugitive from justice who is responsible for the death of James Bond's wife Tracy nine months earlier. He and his wife, Irma Bunt, who changes her name to Frau Emmy Shatterhand, come to Japan under the guise of wanting to set up a research site in Japan.

Blofeld, with the country's blessing, sets up a castle with a park where he fills it all kinds of plants and effects. However, he turns something that could be used for good into something truly evil as the plants are of the poisonous kind. He also fills park with such things as piranha and poisonous snakes.

Blofeld's reputation is known as the founder of SPECTRE, an organization meant to further his plot of world domination. He feels that he alone has the power to judge the world for what he feels is their shortcomings. He believes that if threatened, England, as well as other countries, would come to their senses and regain their morals.

## **Kissy Suzuki**

Kissy Suzuki is a twenty-three-year-old former Japanese movie star. She was characterized as the Japanese Greta Garbo. After making a film at the age of seventeen, she returns to Kuro Island and the Ama way of life as she feels degraded and disrespected by many people in Hollywood, save one, a man named David Niven. She names her pet cormorant, an aquatic bird, after him.

Kissy assists Bond in his training by teaching him to dive and swim longer distances. She shows him friendship and accounts tales to him of The Six Guardians who the Ama people believe watch over the island as they are children of the sea. She tells him of the legend of the evil man or the King of Death who comes to the island to bring destruction and death. She also talks of the good man sent by the guardians to kill him.

## **Taro Todoroki**

Taro Todoroki is the secret identity of Bond. He is a coal miner from Fukuoka. He is completely opposite of his true identity not only in appearance, but also in demeanor. He is more willing to hold himself back with Kissy as to not offend the elders of the village. During his training, he works hard to help her in her rowing as her father has rheumatism.

When Kissy finds him after he has murdered Blofeld and his wife, Bond has amnesia and remembers nothing, except Blofeld's face and that he is dead. Once he recovers, he becomes curious of the outside world, even though he still cannot remember anything. He has dreams about England, but they are dismissed as nightmares. He comes to accept his life in Kuro, until he finds the note with the word Vladivostok and wants to find out where it leads to. Reluctantly, Kissy agrees to help.





## Richard Lovelace Henderson, a.k.a. Dikko

Richard Lovelace Henderson, a.k.a. Dikko, is part of Her Majesty's Australian Diplomatic Corps, stationed in Japan. He has a loose tongue and uses it freely to give his opinions on people who displease him. He works in intelligence as a go-between with Australia and Britain. Dikko is mainly used in the book to introduce Bond to Tiger.

## Irma Bunt

Irma Bunt is Ernst Stavro's wife and partner in crime. She is described by Tiger as extremely ugly with a flat, ugly face, dull eyes and a severe bun. She comes with Stavro to Japan as Frau Emmy Shatterhand, a botanist. In the book, she is described as dumpy. She stands beside her husband in his crimes and encourages him to consider moving to other locations to have more chances to branch out and escape public inquiries. She describes the garden as a shrine to death.

## Mary Goodnight

Mary Goodnight is Bond's secretary. She is mentioned in the first two chapters, *Curtains for Bond?* and *The Impossible Mission*. She shows kindness and concern toward Bond, trying to make sure he looked presentable when meeting his boss. She is portrayed as the force that keeps him focused at his job.

## Miss Moneypenny

Miss Moneypenny is M's secretary who seems to have love-hate feelings where Bond is concerned. Her demeanor when she is first mentioned in *Curtains for Bond?* is hostile, but it changes in the next chapter, *The Impossible Mission*. After Bond's meeting with M, he kisses her on the cheek. She brightens right up, and then he tells her to contact Mary Goodnight as he plans to take her out for dinner to celebrate. Miss Moneypenny seems to be in on what M is up to. She calls Mary as soon as Bond leaves the room to tell her that Bond seems to be back to his old self and happens to mention that M had a meeting with Sir James Molony. However, she instructs Mary not to divulge that information to Bond.

## Bill Tanner

Bill Tanner is the Chief of Staff in the Service and Bond's best friend. Bond inquires as to why he has been placed in this mission and not a Japanese man. Tanner tells him that M thought Bond would be the best man for the position. Tanner suggests that Bond could be moved out of the Double-O section, to which Bond claims he will seek his old

number upon his return. Bill Tanner gives details to Bond about his mission. He tells him that he will be working with Richard Lovelace Henderson, Dikko, as a go-between for information between Britain and Australia.



## Objects/Places

### The Garden of Death

The garden of death is a place owned and operated by Ernst Stavro Blofeld where people could go and end their lives in a variety of ways. It is filled with various poisonous effects such as snakes, piranha, poisonous plants that cause such things as vomiting, abdominal pain, shock, seizures, delirium and death.

### Kuro Island

Kuro island is where the Ama people live. It is a beautiful, peaceful place where people live simply by diving for awabi shells. The inhabitants on the island belong to the Shinto religion.

### The Bureau of All Asian Folkways

The site is a cover for an underground operation operated by Tiger. The people who work outside the underground portion are under the assumption that they are doing research for a company, but really they are just workers put in place to keep the cover from being blown.

### Tiger's Training Camp

Tiger's training camp is located in Kyoto and is where soldiers train in the ways of the samurai and ninjutsu to complete missions. The soldiers learn to climb walls, fight with staves, and fight in hand to hand combat.

### Melody's

Melody's is a bar that is located on a side street off the Ginza. It was once known as a favorite haunt of the English residents and the Press Club.

### The Six Guardians

The Guardians are statues on the other side of Kuro Island that the Ama people believe protect them. A legend follows them that they will send a man from across the world to kill the man who constructed the garden of death or who they know as the King of Death.



## **Yokohama**

Yokohama is discussed throughout the book as the location of The Bureau of the All-Asian Folkways and also in the first chapter where Tiger invites Bond to his home to divulge a secret.

## **Haiku**

Haikus in the story are written as verses with seventeen symbols which do not rhyme and convey a meaning of what the writer is trying to get across to his or her audience. Many of them were written in a house of pleasure.

## **The Question Room**

The question room is where Blofeld tortures people into giving him the answers he desires. There is a throne above a geyser that erupts every fifteen minutes. Bond is placed on the throne and told if he does not move, his lower half will be incinerated. He moves one minute before the next eruption.

## **Masko**

The Black Dragons wear a masko or mask to conceal their identities.



# Themes

## Suicide

A strong theme in the book is death, which is common in many literary novels. In this work, it talks about suicide as a way to atone for one's sins and reestablish honor on the family and one's ancestors. When Bond comes into the mission, he knows nothing of this and is told by Tiger of the tradition of suicide in Japan.

Tiger states that twenty-five thousand members of their society kill themselves yearly. He notes stories such as one student who tried to saw his head off, a couple throwing themselves off Kegon Falls at Nikko, and that their Mihara volcano was a popular spot for suicide. He stated that the government even opened a "Suicide Prevention Office," at the peak of the volcano. Tiger tries to get Bond to understand why this happens by telling him that suicide is weaved into every aspect of the society, including fairy tales.

Bond tells Tiger that in the West, suicide is not considered redemption for failure. He mentions Tiger's example, the case of the boy who committed suicide as he did not get into the college of his choice. In Britain and many similar countries, they would just change their goals to fit their circumstances and move on from there. Tiger tells him that in his culture, as well as many Eastern cultures, failure is seen as dishonor and must be amended, even with one's life.

In addition, suicide is dealt with through the eyes of Blofeld. He sees it as a service he is providing to the country and along with his wife, Irma, consider consider branching into a franchise on other continents to avoid discovery and in their minds, further the idea.

## Honor and Respect

Honor and respect are discussed at length in the work. It is important to note that honor and respect are the foundation of Japanese culture. Tiger tells Bond that honor is everything in Japan and without it, a person feels they have nothing. Respect is touched on as very important, as well. Tiger tells Bond that people in Japan are taught to respect their elders, ancestors and family, no matter what. Dikko describes to Bond an ON or respect and feeling of obligation that is shown toward those who have earned it. He tells Bond that the ON means doing the right thing towards another. He says in a sense that in their tradition, when someone does something good for them, they feel they must pay them back tenfold.

Bond feels the effect of the ON firsthand when Tiger tells him that England had treated him well, and he felt he had not done so in return. He feels that if he shares the information about Magic 44 with Bond, he will be repaying England for the good treatment they showed to him. He tells Bond that once he is in debt to England and by betraying a closely guarded secret of the state, Magic 44, he will be helping the country that was kind to him, as well as restoring his own personal honor.



## Different Perceptions

The work shows different perceptions on both sides. The perception from Tiger's point of view is that his culture is being invaded and changed to its detriment. He has a heavy heart for what he feels is the loss of tradition and turning to a new way of life. He refers to it as Scuola di Coca-Cola or what he refers to as the infiltration of the west into his culture.

In contrast, although Bond cannot understand as he says that his country has never been occupied. He does defend many of the newcomers as he says not all of them come to bring their way of life and not assimilate into Japan. He states that newcomers like what Tiger has described exist in other countries that the U.S. has occupied. However, on the whole, many of them are open to new experiences and willing to embrace change.

Bond's apprehension about going on the mission is evident when he contemplates in the chapter The Impossible Mission what he knows about Japan and its culture. He wonders why he was chosen for the mission as he knows next to nothing about their culture, except what he has heard. When he arrives, he discovers that even though they still have a very traditional way of life, there are changes as well, such as modernization and the integrating of the Eastern and Western cultures.



# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of the work is the third person. The narrator, Ian Fleming tells the story in this voice to give readers a sense of the characters motivations and actions. It is in effect telling the story through the words of others as an account of a fictional tale that is the popular James Bond series that lives on for generations. The characters are narrated in a way that draws the reader into their stories and makes it hard to put the book down. Fleming hooks the reader in early by weaving a tale of intrigue and excitement, involving the reader to the end.

## Setting

The setting is broken up into three parts. The first is London, England. The second part are different areas of Japan, such as Yokohama, Kyoto and Osaka. Yokohama is described as bustling and modern, while Kyoto is described as an ancient city that has a healthy mix of the old and new. Kyoto is the location in the novel where there are farmlands and Tiger's training camp. At the same time, a Western-style hotel, the Miyako, is also located there. Osaka is where the former house of pleasure has now been turned into a national monument. This is also the place where Tiger teaches Bond about haikus. The third setting is Kuro Island, an island on the most southern tip of Japan. The Ama people of Kuro island are described as people who are depicted as where those who live by diving for awabi shells. In contrast, not far from the island is the castle of death which comes to symbolize everything opposite of Kuro Island and the Ama people.

## Language and Meaning

The words make the content come alive in a way that transports the reader into the story. The language used is descriptive and vivid and describes the atmosphere, people, places, things, and even smells. The characters are described in vivid terms, especially the main characters. The different cultures are contrasted throughout the work. The contrast between the cultures is highlighted through the book. The people of England and the Western culture as a whole are characterized as modern and willing to embrace change, while those of Japan are characterized as traditional and weary to accept change.

## Structure

The novel is divided into three sections. The first deals with the death of Bond's wife, Tracy, and how it affects him. It goes into depth how after her death, Bond fell apart and sought help from every doctor He could find. Also in this section, his mission to Japan is discussed at length. It is here that the account of his meeting Dikko and Tiger are covered and the enormity of his mission is uncovered. The nuclear plot and the ordered assassination by Tiger are revealed.

In the second section, the plot thickens as Bond is sent to set up a base at the last place anyone would ever expect, Kuro Island half a mile from the castle of death. He is given new identities, such as an anthropologist sent to study the Ama life, as well as a Japanese coal miner with a disability. Kissy is introduced in this section as Bond's trainer and love interest. The second section also covers Bond's mission to kill his nemesis, Ernst Stavro Blofeld, who killed his wife.

The third part of the book covers Bond's obituary and his recovery on Kuro Island with Kissy. The section talks about Bond's finding the note that leads a clue to his past and ends with he and Kissy planning to chase it down.





## Quotes

"A reasonable number of fleas of fleas is good for a dog. Otherwise he forgets he is a dog." Tiger Tanaka quoting from a Japanese proverb, Ch. 12, Appointment In Samarra p. 126

"More or less," agreed Tiger Tanaka, with equanimity. "You are to enter this Castle of DSeath adn slay the Dragion within." Tiger replies when asked by Bond of his true mission in Japan. Ch. 8, Slay It With Flowers. p. 81

"If you were to break your promise, I would have no alternative byt to remove you from the earth." Tiger threatens Bond before telling him a secret. Ch. 1 Scissors Cut Paper. p. 11

"Let us just say that he provides an easy and attractive oppportunity—a resort—for people to do away with themselves His present tally, in just under six months, is something over five hundred Japanese." Tiger tells Bond about the garden of death. Ch. 7 The Death Collector p. 62

"You only live twice." Bond says to Tiger when offered a protective pill to keep him from dying in the Castle of Death. Ch. 13 Kissy Suzuki p. 135

"Why, if I had not covered my tracks so well, there would eb spies on their way even now to kill us both or to hand us over for our official murder under their stupid laws!" Ernst Stavro Blofeld exclaims to his wife over his desperation of his belief of never being given his due. Ch. 17, Something Evil Comes This Way. p. 171

"I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time." Bond's co-worker's eulogize him in The Times. Ch. 21, Obit p. 203

"You forget, mein Liebchen. Since last January he has ceased to be an animal. By a simple stroke of surgery on the woman he loved, I reduced him to human dimensions." Ernst Stavro Blofeld says to his wife about the death of James Bond's wife. Ch. 19, The Question Room, p. 191.

"Naturally. They want to sell you baseball equipment." Bond says to Tiger about Americans insistence that Baseball is more difficult than Cricket.

"Desolation! Pink dreagonflies flitting among the graves." Tiger recounts a Haiku one of his men was babbling when found at the garden of death. Ch. 8 Slay It With Flowers. p. 78



## Topics for Discussion

The book was written with lots of political incorrect terms such as racist and sexist tones. Discuss how that use differs from today.

The book covers suicide in Japanese culture. Discuss the reasons you believe why this is happening and offer solutions.

In the book, James Bond is dealing with the death of his wife, Tracy, who was murdered. How does he deal with his grief? Describe the different ways you think that grief can affect people and how they handle it.

Describe the relationship between M and Bond as it relates to a boss and subordinate.

In your opinion, what drives Bond to accept such an impossible mission against all odds? Do you believe that there is something inside everyone that pushes them to achieve what they want against all odds?

What do you believe is the parallel between Ernst Stavro Blofeld's plot with nuclear weapons and terrorism today?

What is the significance of David to Kissy Suzuki? What does he represent to her?

What is the ON that Dikko talks about? Why is it stressed so often in the work?

Why do you believe that Bond only remembered Blofeld's face when Kissy found him after the accident?

Discuss the significance of Bond finding the note with the word Vladiostok written on it.

What character can you relate to most and why?

What character do you think should have been more developed in the work and why?