

Ian Fleming (1908-1964)

The best-known hero of spy fiction in the late 20th century is James Bond, the creation of British novelist Ian Fleming. The Bond books have sold by the millions, and several of them have been made into popular motion pictures.

Fleming was born in London on May 28, 1908, and educated in England, Germany, and Switzerland. After his schooling he worked as a journalist in Moscow from 1929 to 1933 and as a banker and stockbroker from 1935 to 1939. During World War II he was an officer in British naval intelligence. He returned to journalism after the war as foreign manager of the London *Sunday Times*.

The first of the Bond stories, 'Casino Royale', was published in 1953. It was followed by 12 more Bond novels, including 'Doctor No', 'Diamonds Are Forever', 'From Russia with Love', 'Goldfinger', 'Live and Let Die', 'The Man with the Golden Gun', 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service', 'The Spy Who Loved Me', 'Thunderball', and 'You Only Live Twice'. Set in the world of international espionage, these novels are filled with violence, romance, narrow escapes, complicated intrigue, and technological wizardry. Bond became the epitome of the playboy-hero of the 1950s and 1960s cool, shrewd, tough, and irresistible to the incredible number of beautiful women who briefly passed in and out of his exciting life.

Ian Fleming died in Canterbury, England, on Aug. 12, 1964, at the height of his success. Attempts have been made by other authors to revive the Bond stories, but their books have not met with the same popular acclaim.¹

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