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Ian Fleming

By Andrew Lycett



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We all know who James Bond is, but how many of us know much about his creator, Ian Fleming, a master of espionage and thrillers? In this full-length biography, author Andrew Lycett tells the story of Ian Fleming's life proving that it was just as dramatic as that of his fictional creation. Educated at Eaton and Sandhurst, he joined Naval Intelligence in 1939 participating in both Operation Mincemeat and Operation Golden Eye. After the war, he became a journalist and, in 1953, wrote *Casino Royale* thereby introducing the world to an English spy named James Bond.

Set in London, Switzerland and Fleming's Jamaican estate Goldeneye, his life was peopled with luminaries like Noel Coward, Sean Connery, Ursula Andress, Bond film producer "Cubby" Broccoli and others. With direct access to Fleming's family and friends, Lycett goes behind the complicated façade of this enigmatic and remarkable man. *Ian Fleming* by Andrew Lycett is biography at its best—a glittering portrait of the brilliant and enigmatic man who created Agent 007.



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Ian Fleming By Andrew Lycett Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Exhaustive and compulsively readable, Lycett's latest (first published in the U.K. in 1995) is billed as the first full-length Fleming biography to be published in America. Biographer Lycett (*Dylan Thomas: A New Life*) calls his subject an immature child of the jazz age—a man of wealth and privilege who shared his fictional hero James Bond's fascination with women, gambling, and drinking. Fleming applied to Britain's Foreign Office for a job but to no avail, but thanks to the forceful lobbying of his snobbish and well-connected mother, he was hired by the Reuters news agency in London. During WWII, he worked for Britain's Naval Intelligence Division. One of the book's pleasures is reading about upper-class social life before, during, and after the war: Fleming and his wife, Ann, mingled with statesmen and notable cultural figures in London and at Goldeneye, their Jamaican retreat. But Fleming did have a darker side, collecting sadomasochistic erotica and being callous to women. Lycett uncovers the seeds of Bond in Fleming's life (though perhaps not as thoroughly as diehard fans would wish), as well as addressing the decline of Britain's power in the postcolonial world. In this anecdote-filled account, Lycett pays tribute to Fleming's colorful life, which was cut short by a heart attack in 1964 at age 56, just two years after Sean Connery starred in the film version of *Dr. No*. 8-page b&w photo insert. (Oct.)

From [Booklist](#)

Given the intense interest American readers and moviegoers have in James Bond, it's odd that Lycett's 1995 biography of Bond's creator, Ian Fleming, has taken this long to reach the U.S. Lycett covers lots of ground, exploring Fleming's life not merely as novelist (he published 13 Bond novels before his death at 56 in 1964) but also as journalist (he worked for Reuters and the *Sunday Times*), stockbroker (briefly in the 1930s), member of British Naval Intelligence (he participated in a disinformation operation designed to conceal the impending Allied invasion of Sicily), and celebrity (although he died just as the Bond movies were taking off, he enjoyed hobnobbing with the producers and stars). A certain mythology has built up around Fleming, based mostly on the facts that James Bond is a superspy and his creator worked for Naval Intelligence, and Lycett does an admirable job of bringing Fleming back down to earth, separating fact from legend while still giving Fleming his due as a larger-than-life personality. A must-read for Bond aficionados. --David Pitt

Review

"The only Fleming biography I have read which gets to the heart of this complex, fascinating man." ?*Charles Cumming, author of A Foreign Country and The Trinity Six*

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Gary Lopez:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Ian Fleming. Try to face the book Ian Fleming as your good friend. It means that it can being your friend when you feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we need to make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

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Sabrina Crockett:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to you personally is Ian Fleming this book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some investigation when he makes this book. That is why this book suitable all of you.

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