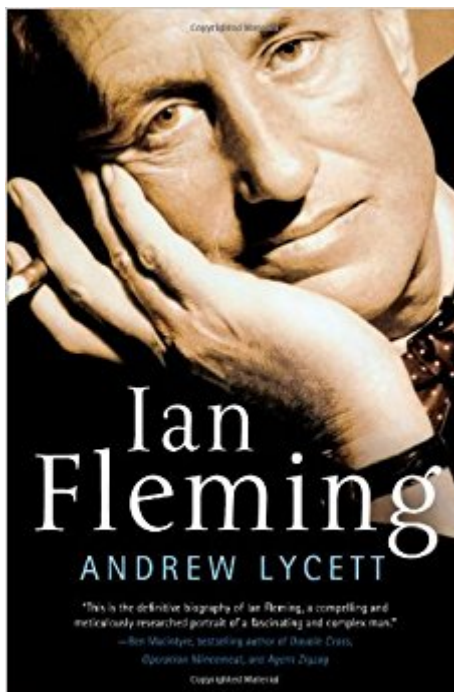


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Ian Fleming



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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.)

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

Great biography! Very well written. If you are a Bond fan than this will enlighten you. The book becomes a who's who in London's society by default as if you were reading about all the clans that grew up around you and inter-married. The writer also identifies the passages in the Bond books that were reflections from Fleming's own life. Found myself really liking this book as it is not a fast read! The history back drop of his life mixed with people, wars, etc. is the educational learning curve. One subject makes you want to look up another in reference to European history and people. i.e., Churchill.

I've read this bio of Ian twice. In one month I'm giving a talk of the life of Ian Fleming at the Ronald Reagan Library out here in California. I'm re-reading all the books I've enjoyed as I make notes for the upcoming presentation. This one by Lycett is the best of the lot.

very good, lot's of detail and obviously well researched

The book was excellent. The subject matter was abhorrent. Thank heaven for the 007 movies, otherwise I'd have nothing to do with Ian Fleming. How such an awful man could write Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang is beyond me. This book doesn't gloss over the man, his proclivities and his lifestyle at all.

"Ian Fleming" is a thorough and thoroughly enjoyable biography of a man who was at least as interesting as his immortal character James Bond. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys Fleming's work, or who have read previous biographies of the writer.

Very interesting!

As with so many books, I got hooked on wanting to know more about Ian Fleming. I think this book is very informative, almost too informative. He must have been something.

Great read! Half history n half Mr.Fleming...A must read for Bond lovers

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