



No Deals, Mr. Bond

John Gardner

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Two female agents of Operation Cream Cake - double agents and honey traps against the KGB - are murdered. Bond must find the others and conduct them to safety before they meet a similar fate.

In a race against time, Bond travels to Ireland and the KGB is soon on the scene. But all is not as it seems and soon Bond finds he needs all his wits to negotiate a labyrinth of double-crossing that is to lead him to a bewildering showdown in a remote corner of the Kowloon province of Hong Kong, where, weaponless, he is hunted by four assassins.

No Deals, Mr. Bond is the sixth in the bestselling series created by John Gardner, and one of the most original and unpredictable.

No Deals, Mr. Bond Details

Date : Published September 1st 1991 by Charter (first published January 1st 1987)

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Author : John Gardner

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Art says

No Deals, Mr. Bond by John Gardner is Gardner Bond novel number six. I know I've said it before and I'll say it again John Gardner just gets Bond. In this novel, Bond is put in the most vonrewabble and terrifying situation. Our super spy is set on a double secret mission in which he has no official support. Bond must use everything an agent of his ability has at his disposal in order to complete the mission and come out alive. Gardner spins the super spy world upside down. The trust no one mantra is on full display here. No help. No one coming. No hope. No deals, Mr. Bond. The action is well paced and not over used. Gardner has his now famous twists and turns littered through out the book all the way until the end. Bond doesn't know where to turn neither does he know who to trust. The tension in this book gets up to ten and stays there all the way to the end! This is not the most spy plot heavy book, but the plot and action makes this the most fast paced Gardner Bond novel yet! No first time reader will be able to guess the end and this will make any readers' jaw drop. No Deals, Mr. Bond is a great five star thrill. I almost wish I could delete the memory of the book so I could read it again. Scorpius is the next book in the series, but with so much 007 in my reading scope right now this one will have to wait a short while.

James says

Gardner's best Bond outing by far - although it's leaping a pretty low bar. Double and even triple agents all over the place, a cohesive adventure, let down only by Gardner's paper-thin Bond and stupid code names: Operation Cream Cake?

Kost As says

Ωρα?α! Ο κ. Bond, James Bond, λοιπ?ν, αυτ? τη φορ? μπλ?κεται σε μια ιστορ?α γεμ?τη γυνά?κες! Ν?ες! Σ?ξι! Το πι?σαμε το ν?ημα! Και π?ρα απ? αυτ?;; Ε, π?ρα απ? αυτ? β?λε μ?σα μερικο?ς κακο?ς Σοβιετικο?ς, μερικο?ς διπλο?ς πρ?κτορες, μερικ?ς ανατροπ?ς και ως αποτ?λεσμα ?χεις το No deals, Mr. Bond! Καλο?λι ε?ναι, ωρα?ος ρυθμ?ς, με συνεχ? εναλλαγ? τοποθεσι?ν, ωρα?ες περιγραφ?ς, φουλ δρ?ση και αρκετ? απλ? πλοκ? αυτ? τη φορ?, ?στε να θυμ?σαι ε?κολα απ? πο? ξεκ?νησαν ?λα! ?,τι πρ?πει αν θ?λεις ?να βιβλ?ο για την παραλλ?α και τις διακοπ?ς! Σ?γουρα δε θα με?νει στην ιστορ?α και λογικ? θα πρ?πει να διαβ?ζω την περ?ληψη κ?θε φορ? που θα θελ?σω να θυμηθ? την πλοκ? του βιβλ?ου στο μ?λλον, εν? σ?γουρα μα σ?γουρα δεν πρ?κειται να διδαχθε? στα πανεπιστημιακ? τμ?ματα της Αγγλικ?ς Λογοτεχν?ας!

Υ.Γ.: Στα πολ? θετικ? του βιβλ?ου το ?τι επιτ?λους το μισητ? Saab 900 Turbo δεν εμφαν?ζεται σε καμ?α σελ?δα! Ο?τε καν ως γκεστ σταρ! Ε?γε κ. Gardner! Μια χαρ? το πας!!

Tim Petersik says

Not Ian Fleming, but still a fun romp with all the elements of a typical Bond thriller.

Dustin Dye says

No Deals, Mr. Bond was John Gardner's best book up to this point (even though the title never appears as a line in the book--I guess there is a point when the villain refuses to negotiate, but he doesn't use that line). This book had higher stakes (people are getting killed and mutilated in a gruesome way) and a number of questions running throughout the story, keeping it more engaging than Gardner's previous books, which I found rather insipid or forgettable.

One criticism, which is why I think some of these books are rather boring, is Gardner sometimes undercuts the action with a throwaway line that dispels the tension. During one fight, there was a line that began something like, "Later Bond would realize..." While I didn't think a series's main character would be killed off by a heretofore nameless henchman near the beginning of a book, I still prefer to remain in the moment and feel like the stakes are real.

Alger says

As usual, the book version of James Bond inhabits a different and more interesting world than the film version. Published in 1987, the year of *The Living Daylights* starring Timothy Dalton, the Bond of *No Deals, Mr. Bond* is a quieter and less violent man. His mission here is to rescue the endangered operatives and find the mole who betrayed them in an old honeypot operation that went very wrong. Like other Gardner efforts in the series, Bond is subdued, more pursued than pursuer, and his body count is far lower than Dalton's. Where Dalton steers a cello case down an alp using a priceless antique, and shoots a defector to freedom using an oil pipeline, the real Bond is occupied with paddling an inflatable onto the Baltic shore and losing a tail in Hong Kong.

I've always preferred that quieter, less murderous Bond, even though his adventures share the same predictable trope of some unrealistically attractive woman along the way will develop an insatiable desire for his peener. This need must be met no matter what else is going on around them. In this novel, the young hottie who latches on to him decides that her moment of opportunity is in the midst of an escape attempt with large caliber bullets perforating the car body. She is an empty character that we are told is lovely endlessly, and she is the archetype of the Bond Girl trope. All she exists for is bedding.

Jeff Mayo says

This is the best of the Bond books by Gardner, with the worst title, a title even Gardner said was dreadful. The publisher changed the name from his original title, "Tomorrow Always Comes." This starts with Bond extracting two female agents from East Germany after a failed mission. The story then skips ahead to five years later. M calls Bond in to undertake a mission off the record. The two women Bond extracted have been brutally murdered. There were five others from the previous mission extracted at the same time by different agents and at different points on the map. It is up to Bond to find out who is behind killing them five years

later, and why. This one has multiple twists and turns, and for once Gardner does not choreograph those twists in advance. He had taken a smoother approach to his usual heavy handedness by this point. Like all Bond novels, including those written by the original author, Ian Fleming, a lot of this won't work if you apply real world logic to it. For the first time in long time it works overall and is a fast paced, action filled adventure.

DiscoSpacePanther says

This was the first James Bond book that I have read as an adult. I ploughed my way through the Ian Fleming novels when I was eleven or twelve, and thoroughly enjoyed their blend of sex, violence and mid- 20th Century adventure. I then continued to get my Bond fix from the John Gardner 007 novels from the '80s, which I enjoyed to a lesser degree, but still enjoyed despite the jarring oddities (Bond drives a Saab 900? Really?).

So now, about 30 years later I picked up "No Deals, Mr. Bond", and thought I'd see if the style held up to a modern reading by an adult.

Short answer: it is positively stone age! When my wife asked me if which outdated attitudes it expressed, I had to reply, "All of them!". From the women who are either psycho-killers or nymphomaniacs (or sometimes both), to the ethnic stereotypical comedy Irish accent of the special branch man, going via the long conversation with a "Chinese" who wants two thousand Hong Kong "dolla", with a short detour via the "effeminate" voice of a hired assassin - this novel ticks all the boxes!

As an adult, all the discussion of style and luxury brands and expensive hotels just seems ludicrous - these are the kinds of things that would impress a douchebag rapper, not a mature member of society. They weren't even aspirational, as apparently the kinds of items and services that were rare and expensive in the mid- '80s are commonplace nowadays, and as likely as not available in your local supermarket.

On the plus side, there was a short detour to an exotic locale, and a game of death with a group of Soviet assassins fighting for their freedom.

In conclusion, it was juvenile and outdated. But, isn't that kind of what we want and expect from a James Bond novel? Two stars! (If I re-read the other Bond books, I'd probably lower their ratings, too!)

Thomas Strömquist says

Bond pulls out a group of young double agents from East Germany in the wake of a blown "honeypot" operation. Five years later, someone is killing them off, despite new identities. 'M' sends Bond outside of any sanctions or support for reasons I cannot exactly remember 200 pages later... A very nice surprise for me, Gardner's no. 6 is a good and entertaining Bond story. I think much of his success lies in keeping it simple; the storyline in this one could be summarized in quite few words. Bond is also a step away from the movie character and one closer to Fleming's agent I think (even though I always picture Gardner's Bond as Connery from "Never Say Never Again" - I know he was only 53 at the time, but...). Apart from a few oddities that always seem to slip by his editors in these, it's a good read, arguably his best this far and a solid 4-star book. Up until the silly endgame that is. I'm knocking a star off on account of the numerous 'but why?'s and 'yeah,

right!'s the last few chapters invoked. But this book do bring good hopes for more entertaining stories among the subsequent ones!

P.S. My favorite 'oddity' in this one. I hear that it is generally a good idea for a writer to at least attempt to perform the sometimes complicated moves and actions he or she describes and generally, I think Gardner is quite skilled in this art. Fight scenes with quick moves, sleigh of hand, car chases, and more, flows quite well. Therefore it was funny that I should get stuck on: "[...] 'After that, we play it by ear.' He gave her a light kiss on each ear as though to underline the point." Is it just me, or does that sound really awkward? How do you go about that? Grab the chin and twist? Walk around from side to side? Can you see James Bond doing it?

Steve Mitchell says

John Gardner's sixth book in the James Bond series is quite a fast paced affair. Following Bond's part in allowing a group of agents to flee Redland 'in their socks' it becomes apparent that the KGB have tracked them down and are exacting a terrible revenge five years on. M sends Bond in to save the surviving spies from their horrible fate; Bond must go native with no help from the service and he will be left in the cold should he fall foul of even our own police. By using his own contacts from outside the service, Bond manages to track down the survivors; but rapidly realises that there was more to this mission than M told him. Realising that the only reason M would have withheld information and support if there was a traitor on the scene Bond realises he is truly alone and can trust nobody.

Gardner sets out a good plot but all his twists and turns with double- and even triple-agents is beginning to wear a bit thin. If you overuse the twist of hidden moles and good guys pretending that they are bad guys – this is the fourth book in a row built around that plot – then it just loses all impact; it's obvious Gardner never read the Aesop fable about the boy who cried wolf.

Raymond says

Totally underwhelmed at page 120

Stan Stepak says

Predicted surprise sections but otherwise a good read. Needed more bond like gadgets to carry more fun to it. I recommend reading a few others before this one. Good look on your next Bond read!!!!

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William says

The best of the Gardner Bond novels so far in the series. Gardner seems to be hitting his stride.

Martin says

John Gardner's best Bond book, in my opinion. The action moves at a cracking pace and there are plenty of double and even triple crosses.

David says

Among the best of Gardner's 007 novels. So many double, even triple agents.
