



Forever and a Day

Anthony Horowitz

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'A worthy successor to Ian Fleming, putting 007 back in his true domain.' *SCOTSMAN*

'Fast-paced, skilfully written... Leaves you wanting more.' *THE TIMES*

'A timeless Bond.' *IRISH EXAMINER*

A spy is dead. A legend is born. This is how it all began. The explosive prequel to *Casino Royale*, from bestselling author Anthony Horowitz.

M laid down his pipe and stared at it tetchily. 'We have no choice. We're just going to bring forward this other chap you've been preparing. But you didn't tell me his name.'

'It's Bond, sir,' the Chief of Staff replied. 'James Bond.'

The sea keeps its secrets. But not this time.

One body. Three bullets. 007 floats in the waters of Marseille, killed by an unknown hand.

It's time for a new agent to step up. Time for a new weapon in the war against organised crime.

It's time for James Bond to earn his licence to kill.

This is the story of the birth of a legend, in the brutal underworld of the French Riviera.

Forever and a Day Details

Date : Published May 31st 2018 by Vintage Digital

ISBN :

Author : Anthony Horowitz

Format : Kindle Edition 288 pages

Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Spy Thriller, Espionage

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From Reader Review Forever and a Day for online ebook

Scott says

Forever and a Day is classic James Bond and classic Horowitz. It moves along at a fast pace, our hero is put into danger, raked across the coals, and comes out the winner. Since it's a prequel to Casino Royale, it's really no spoiler that Bond lives through the ordeal.

I enjoyed reading this, but felt at times that it lacked something. Maybe it's become cliché, or maybe the plot was too predictable at times. I'm not sure

If you're a fan of action thrillers, James Bond, or Anthony Horowitz, then you'll enjoy Forever and a Day.

Bill Lynas says

When it comes to 007 novels, excluding Ian Fleming of course, I am a fairly harsh critic. So I am very pleased that I enjoyed this novel so much.

If you have the hardback version of the book left up the dustwrapper & you will see part of the cover has been embossed on the boards.....just like the original Fleming stories. Well done to publishers Jonathan Cape for adding this lovely touch. Anyway, onto the book itself...

While Anthony Horowitz may not give us the immense detail that Ian Fleming put into his descriptions of meals & locations the structure of the story is so like Fleming that you almost believe you are reading a lost novel. Of course, as Horowitz point out in his acknowledgements at the end of the book, some elements were taken from a television story outline that Fleming never used. That aside, Horowitz does a superb job in bring a 1950's set Bond adventure to life.

The author is such a huge bond fan that he even makes a reference of Shame Lady. I've been a Fleming fan for over 40 years & that even had me stumped for a while. For the answer see his acknowledgements at the end of the novel. However, Horowitz does not thankfully fall into the trap that many other Bond authors have by filling the novel with endless in jokes that become irritating.

This is a book that deserves a huge amount of praise. In one of my favourite chapters he simply writes about a character telling James Bond about her life & it's a wonderful piece of prose.

I do have one very small criticism though. The villain's plan (which I will not give away!) is quite similar to one used in an old Bond film. Perhaps the author used it subconsciously, but I did find it spoilt (though only slightly) an otherwise perfect novel.

So what do we end up with? Great characters, a wonderful 1950's setting & a truly superb Bond adventure. JAMES BOND IS BACK!

Roy says

I wasn't overly fond of the previous Bond novel by Horowitz but I love Bond so thought I'd give this a go. It was one of those pretty decent reads. The typical Bond stuff, with good Villains and plotting but not something overly original. The plot at times plodded which didn't help that the novel was short. It really did feel like a novella of sorts. Solid short read with a pretty average plot. Would have helped if it was fleshed out more.

The Professor says

“Death was now his business.” Literary Bond Begins with Anthony Horowitz back playing in the James Bond dressing up box and – in the same month that “Solo: A Star Wars Story” underwhelmed at the box office – killing any lingering sense of Bondian mystique by explaining the provenance of every one of Fleming’s suggestive lines and taste preferences, vastly diminishing Bond imaginatively as a result. Want to know why Bond orders his Martinis “shaken, not stirred” or why La Vie En Rose might have memories for him or why he favours Morland cigarettes? This is the book for you.

Narratively “Forever And A Day” is very thin gruel and Horowitz bewilderingly seems hell bent on stripping Bond of any agency. His “007” moniker is an inherited title, not specific to him. He kills neither of the two antagonists and his personal tastes all appear to come from his latest squeeze. There are also some dodgy tense changes in one paragraph and Horowitz really loves the pathetic fallacy (“The sun has always been a little in love with the south of France”, “Gleefully, the water poured into his mouth”). One supposed antagonist, Scipio, appears in only two scenes and Bond only really encounters any jeopardy half way through the novel and it later transpires he was never in any danger anyway. Sex is skated over and there’s only minor sadism creating a growing sense that this short novel (85k words or so) has been rattled off a little too quickly, possibly almost as quickly as Fleming claimed to have written his originals. This is a great pity because when Horowitz is on form he’s capable of some really well-written prose sequences. Sixtine’s back-story is a simple but rock-solid transmission of information that grips the reader. The opening chapter of “Trigger Mortis”, scientist-sells-secrets, is, in this reader’s opinion, a textbook example of how to write clear, unaffected, prose fiction. Anthony Horowitz is certainly not Dan Brown or E.L. James but this ain’t one of his finest hours. We’re not in Raymond Benson territory (Bond fighting doggies live on TV, riding a horse called Lolita) but neither is there any single line to match “March came in like a rattlesnake”. It’s a very, very safe ride.

The USP, of course, is “Literary Bond Begins” which is sadly out of tune with the zeitgeist which has woken up to the dwindling economic possibilities of the origin story. Horowitz is on record criticising the EON films for fixating on Bond’s inner life and here he ju-u-st about manages to have his cake and eat it but he doesn’t do anything to shake Bond up. At one point Bond has acid thrown in his face and for a thrilling moment it looks like Horowitz is going to torch the Fleming canon and strike out anew...but no. It’s a fake out, as is the promise of a heroin addicted Bond. If you really want edgy Bond look no further than what Dynamite Entertainment are doing with graphic novel Bond; all the violence and drug addiction you can eat! Prose Bond, in comparison, seems same-y and predictable and "Forever And A Day" reads very much like a YA middle-ground between the Young Bond novels and the carpet-beating of Casino Royale. Warily, we once again have Bond's sea island cotton shirts, May cooking breakfast, car talk, lascivious looks at pretty girls. It’s like the Netflix algorithm has started to write Bond novels. Someone needs to light a fire under this thing.

How? Simple. Commission ten short stories from ten ace authors (there are armies of badass female writers who would be up for this; Christa Faust springs to mind for one) and see what flies. Widen the gap between novels. Sod continuity and send Bond off on brand new fifties/sixties adventures. Do something dangerous. It won’t happen of course but if there isn’t something more exciting than a marketing campaign identical to his “Moriarty” novel and the “Horowitz Explains Everything” angle Bond is going to need more than Q department to get him out of mortal danger. “It wasn’t meant to be forever. But at least we had our day.”

Mark says

007 has been killed in Marseille.

Long live 007, Bond, James Bond.

This is the prequel to Casino Royale, at least that is one of the selling points. But mostly it means that is set before the Ian Fleming novel called "Casino Royale".

We meet Bond earning his 00-status and then being send into the similar situation the original 007 has been send to solve his death and deliver death to the responsible. We get Bond in his beloved south of France where he will find happiness and death in the future.

Like the previous Horowitz 007 novel Trigger Mortis this book also contains a bit of Fleming which was left after a TV show failed to appear. Do not expect a full script it is more a wee bit and can be found in the chapter "Russian Roulette". Fans of Ian Fleming will probably notice for others it will be a nice bit of marketing.

Horowitz seems to be far more comfortable with 007 in his second book and it shows, the story is very lean and well written. The main plot device seems to be familiar, but then again with over 40 literary books and 24 movies in the EON series something is bound to double. The leading lady is a classic and this young 007 already shows the signs of his Ian Fleming character.

This book was very much anticipated by me far more than the Next Craig emo-Bond outing. And based upon the book I would say that Ian Fleming estate should ask hem for a next entry as soon as possible. Because Horowitz seems to enjoy the character and does write a bloody good yarn.

James Bond will clearly deserve his 00-status in this book and it a tale well worth reading and not just to hardcore 007 fans. It is a nice thriller but be warned this is the Fleming character far more than the movie character. You might want to read Fleming after this book or at least Trigger Mortis the first Horowitz 007 novel.

I would not mind if Horowitz would take a stab at another classic character named the Saint and have him in his best era pre WWII.

Nick Brett says

So many "big name" authors tried to crack the Bond magic, and sadly failed. The first Anthony Horowitz Bond book was excellent, and his follow up? Even better.

Set in 1950/we have a young Bond, new to the 00 section. He is tasked with continuing the mission of his predecessor in Marseille. This is a Bond still finding himself, the post war setting is perfect as is the Bond learning his skills and what it means to be a 00 agent.

Bond is investigating a drying up of drugs and the involvement of a Corsican "Mr Big", no really he really is big. He comes into contact with possibly the best of all "Bond girls", Sixtine, who shapes the young Bond in a number of ways, and shows him he has much to learn.

Yep, it's an origin story, but so well told and with so many nods to Bond fans and the Bond history. This captures the time and character perfectly, I shall be devastated if Anthony Horowitz doesn't own this series for a long time to come.

Bart says

Actual rating: 4.00

A vintage Bond novel. Just as the great Ian Fleming wrote them.

Nik Morton says

Anthony Horowitz's prequel to Ian Fleming's *Casino Royale*, *Forever and a Day* (2018) starts with M making the observation, 'So, 007 is dead.' Of course it isn't James Bond who is deceased but the unnamed previous incumbent with that Double-O number. A neat touch, that.

This is Horowitz's second foray into the James Bond universe, having earlier treated us to *Trigger Mortis* (2015) – reviewed here:

<http://nik-writealot.blogspot.com/201...>

Where the earlier book took place in 1957, shortly after *Goldfinger*, this one takes us to early 1950s, the beginning of Bond's career as the new 007; there are only three Double-O men – 008, 0011 and 007, it seems; M deplored using sequential numbers (p4). M's Chief of Staff reveals that 007 was murdered in the south of France, in Marseille. He'd been investigating the Corsican underworld in the area. 'It seems that there was a woman involved.' To which M replies, 'There always is.' Dry humour, just the right note. The woman is called Madame 16 or Sixtine, a one-time worker at Bletchley Park and subsequently an agent in SOE. As 008 was still out of action (hospitalised) and 0011 was in Miami, it was deemed necessary to send the new 007 to dig around – James Bond.

Eventually, Bond finds himself in Monte Carlo, playing *Vingt-et-un* against Sixtine. An amusing aside when a croupier mutters, among other appropriate phrases, *Carré*, doubtless Horowitz's nod to John Le Carré. (p59) This scene is also an homage to Fleming's lengthy discourse in *Casino Royale*.

We're made privy to the origin of Bond's vodka martini being shaken, not stirred (p70); another nice touch. As for his cigarettes, he was introduced to Morlands' coffin nails in preference to his Du Maurier 'named after a minor British actor.' (p122) Finally, we see how Bond acquires his trade-mark gunmetal cigarette case, which also masterfully explains the book title. (p169)

There are two villains, Scipio a grossly overweight Corsican and rich industrialist Irwin Wolfe. Scipio delivers Bond a trenchant speech via a translator: '... the arrogance of the British. You are a tiny island with bad weather and bad food also but you still think you rule the world... you are becoming irrelevant...' (104) Maybe he was an early scriptwriter for the EU negotiators?

Inevitably, Bond is faced with grim 'torture', which is only to be expected. However, more than once he seems to escape through no guile of his own; I won't say more. This didn't spoil the book for me; I perhaps was hoping for more, which may be my failing.

Horowitz also adopts the Fleming style of chapter headings, often playing with words, among them *Killing by Numbers*, *Russian Roulette*, *Not So Joliette*, *Shame Lady*, *Love in a Warm Climate*, *Pleasure... or Pain?* and *Death at Sunset*.

Yet again he has captured the flavour and tone of Fleming while adding his own stamp to the proceedings. Initially,

I wasn't impressed by the title, Forever and a Day, but it makes complete sense now that I've read the book. It's also the title of a 1943 film.

The cover is excellent, the luxury yacht resembling a deadly bullet!

I ended my review of Trigger Mortis with the hope of seeing another Horowitz 007 novel, and despite a few caveats he has not disappointed. I look forward to the next.

Sylvie says

Forever and a Day
by Anthony Horowitz

3.75/5 Stars!

One of the main reasons I started reading James Bond novels besides the films was because of my brother, which I'm grateful for. Since I'm more into Young Adult and he's more into mature novels I somehow always found pleasure in reading James Bond novels despite them being more vague, mature and much complicated than the books I usually prefer to read.

"There is one more thing." M reached for his pipe, although he didn't light it. "You're going to need a number. You'll be working with 008 and 0011. I don't know why, but 009 sprung to mind. What do you think?"

Bond had been getting to his feet but he sat down again. "If it's all the same to you, sir, I'd like to take over the 007 designation."

M raised an eyebrow. "Really? Why?"

"Well, I suppose there are two reasons. The first is that I knew Richard Blakeney. The man who used to carry that Double-0 number." Bond named the man who had died. "I'd go so far as to say we were friends and I'd like to keep his memory alive, flying the flag, so to speak."

"And the second?"

"I think it sends out a message. You can take one of us down but it changes nothing. We'll come back the same and as strong as ever."

'Forever and a Day' takes place before the events that happened in 'Casino Royale'. Before there was the famous James Bond 007 that we all know and love, in the beginning of this book there was just James Bond, a field agent who was groomed to take up on a 00-status, for which the initiation to the prefix is two perform to official assassinations - Both of his victims were enemies of the Great Britain. Commander James Bond has completed his second "official" kill and is now planning revenge on behalf of Her Majesty's government - but this time with a knife at close range. His target? A double agent who worked for the Nazis. Only after completing this mission he is promoted to the Double-0 Division as an agent with a license to kill. He's now given the mission to find out and possibly kill whoever murdered the former 007.

As the story begins the man who used to formerly hold the 007 codenumber is killed and Her Majesty's Secret Service is looking for someone who can replace him. Just as Bond succeeds in delivering his objectives to the finishing point, he was seen as the eligible man to take over the position of his deceased colleague and be assigned to the case the latter was working on.

This was my first James Bond novel by Anthony Horowitz, while I merely enjoyed this book I can never compare this to Ian Fleming's books, Ian's books have a very unique style of writing. Compared to Fleming's efforts, Anthony's narrative felt very simplistic and easygoing. However the author tried to stay as true as possible to Ian's novels. The story itself isn't too action-heavy, nor it relies on the suspense to narrate itself, rather being calmer and quieter than the general Fleming-crafted James Bond thriller. The dialogues were well written; the background information is described in detail, without delving deep into the blueprint.

An exciting narrative, rich with all sorts of not so easy-to-anticipate surprises. For the original Bond fans this is certainly an interesting book and for newcomers a very good start, because chronologically this is the "first" Bond novel (if you discount the Young Bond books, of course). The story has the classic ingredients for a 007 adventure: exotic locations, the casinos, the conversation with 'M', the villains and so on.

In conclusion I can't say I loved this book or it was a perfection due to a few existing dull moments prolonging the endgame here and there, but then again this had been Bond's very first mission as a double-O agent so I can't really blame them for not being as exciting or epic as the others, since that would undo the message it's supposed to deliver and act inconsistently to the plot of 'Casino Royale'.

Ben says

A fun and fast (not drawn out) Bond thriller. This beats Fleming, and is also better than the movies. It is a bit childish, but it hits its targets.

Maine Colonial says

I like the James Bond stories and movies, but I'm not a fanatic about them. What drew me most to this book was Anthony Horowitz. I have read several of his books and he's a writer who can draw the reader in and submerge him or her into a world of Horowitz's creation.

This story is set in the Monte Carlo and the south of France, with the usual beautiful woman, grotesque villain and evil henchmen, loads of explosive action and a layer of cynicism veneering the feeling Bond underneath. But just because this book mimics the Bond formula doesn't mean it's formulaic. It's an excellent, straight-ahead action thriller with well-drawn characters (other than Horowitz going a bit too far with his villain's grotesquerie) and enough twists and turns to keep you on your toes. It's great fun to read.

In this era of superhero movies and origin stories, it's easy to imagine something similar here: a new James Bond series featuring him in his earliest days. It could start here, with the young James receiving his 00 designation, with its license to kill, and his first assignment.

4.5 stars

Scott says

** I am doing a re-read of the James Bond books, including the classic Ian Fleming, followed by John Gardner, Raymond Benson, and the other estate approved editions. My goal is to read and review each one in chronological order (as much as possible) with as much honesty and reflection that I can give. **

Background / Notes – This is the second James Bond novel authorized by the Ian Fleming estate and written by Anthony Horowitz. Horowitz was given some original source material by the Fleming estate - an outline for a TV series that was never made – to use in the book. It was published in 2018 as a prequel to Fleming’s first Bond novel, “Casino Royale” and it is where I will begin my re-read.

Plotline – Two words: “Prequel Bond.” The book starts off back in 1950 when James Bond, an agent in the British Secret Service, has not yet earned his double-O (permission to kill) status. This is the story of how James was developing into the Bond that Ian Fleming introduced to the world to in his classic “Casino Royale” novel. The prequel starts off with the current 007 agent turning up dead – shot three times and left floating in the waters of the French Riviera. M, the head of the British Secret service, decides it’s time to promote Commander Bond, and sends the new 007 to the south of France to find out what happened to his predecessor.

Bond’s mission takes him to several exotic locales, including Stockholm, Nice, Monte Carlo, French Riviera, and even Southern California.

Bond is introduced to several new and mysterious characters who interact and challenge him, including Sixtine, a sultry fatal and former British secret agent during the war and now an independent entrepreneur; Scipio, a grotesque Corsican gangster with even more grotesque tastes; Irwin Wolfe, an arrogant American industrialist who has invented a new way to film movies; and Reade Griffith, a CIA agent with his own agenda (and not related to Fleming’s established Felix Leiter).

Favorite Lines – “You make love like a schoolboy. I’m sure you’ve had plenty of girls, James, but you’ve never had a woman and you’ve still got a lot to learn.” Sixtine to James Bond (p.169). “You will not know what I am going to do, whether I will provide you with pleasure... or pain.” Scipio to James Bond (p.227).

Thoughts and Reflections – There are a several reasons I absolutely love about this book. And it seems a bit strange to start off re-reading all of the James Bond books without starting with the master and creator himself, Ian Fleming. Still, in my opinion, Horowitz does a lot of good things well.

First, with this being a prequel, Horowitz presents a younger version of James, where he is physically strong, but still learning and developing into the experienced and savvy agent that he will one day become. This James made mistakes during the mission, some of them costly and deadly. Still, he was an authentic human that was learning to use his brain rather than just rely on instincts. As much as I want my Bond to do things that seem impossible, they still need to be based in a realistic world.

Second, Horowitz creates a cast of characters that as close to the ones in Flemings books that I have seen in a quite a while. They aren’t cartoonish or have silly names. Each of them had a background, uniqueness of character, and especially Sixtine – she captured a special place in my heart. James and she share an evening when she shares the story of her life during the war and the decisions she’s made that really define her strength and resiliency. She is not just pretty woman who falls into James arms because he walks into the room. Rather she challenges and strengthens him.

Third, Horowitz creates a strong plot and pacing to match. Writing a Bond novel must be one of the toughest challenges a writer can face. Stepping into an established world where expectations are high and the ways to

fail are many, seems like an unbelievable task to willingly take on. However, I was very surprised at how well Horowitz delivered on this absolutely key element. The setting is in the early fifties, before the modern-day technology that exists today, but he keeps the plot focused, moving, and tied together throughout the story. Except for a few clichés that spring up through-out the book, the moments of intense action are balanced by interaction and dialogue that take you back to the vision that Fleming created. I don't want to give too much away, but there are several scenes where Bond is faced with the results of his actions and coming to terms with them were critical to his character development. One scene especially involving heroin was especially well written and presented in such a raw and personal way that the memories will be ingrained in my mind for quite a while.

Overall – First of all, let me be absolutely clear. Ian Fleming is the king when it comes to James Bond and everyone pales in comparison. That's a given. However, of all the writers stepping into Fleming's world, Horowitz does a worthy job in his second outing. The good things heavily outweigh the few clichéd clunkers. My advice is, if you like your James Bond authentic, gritty, and realistic, give this one a try. It will be worth it.

Next Book – “Casino Royale.”

📚 Sam 📚 says

Just brilliant, go and read. That's all I can say.
It's really really good!

Karl says

U.K. publication date and publisher Jonathan Cape 31 May 2018 this cover.

U.S. publication date and publisher Harper November 6, 2018 (With a different cover).

This book: 007 is dead. 'M' only has, at his disposal, two other agents sanctioned to kill, and one of them is decommissioned due to injuries. Thus 'M' decides it is time to promote James Bond into that elite role of sanctioned killer. After a trial test run in Stockholm for Mr. Bond, 'M' finds him worthy of the double digits. He lets Bond choose his own number, and Bond chooses 007 as a tribute to his predecessor who had died in France.

And so begins Anthony Horowitz's second authorized outing following last year's "Trigger Mortis" in the new saga of Mr. James Bond, titled "Forever and A Day". Early on we are introduced to 'Jim', as one of the antagonists calls Bond, in a restaurant, as he is "stabbing at a bad filet mignon accompanied by a worse glass of Burgundy". Soon he meets a femme who may or may not be fatale. Her name is Sixtine. a cool and elegant card shark that Bond has been warned about. When Bond orders them drinks, Sixtine prefers her martini shaken and not stirred, he notes.

Once again the Fleming Estate has bequeathed onto Mr. Horowitz some of Mr. Fleming's original material which he incorporates into this book. According to Horowitz, in his afterword/acknowledgements, this time the inclusion of the additional material is in chapter seven, incorporated from the outline of an American television production that never came to fruition.

If I had any problems with this book, it would encompass the need for the exceptional 'Bond Villain' which seems to be needed in every book. This book is no exception. Our villain is named Scipio (I christened him sippie-cup as I was reading) a super-rich, super-evil drug lord who comes off to me rather cartoonish in his language and his henchmen. It's as if there is a checklist that must be met to insure all the ingredients of the recipe are fulfilled. For example, when Bond is captured by Scipio, he is told by Scipio's translator. "I have total control here in Marseilles," he announces villainously. "The port, the city, the police, the justice system? It is all mine!"

Overall the book is a quick and enjoyable read. If a bit predictable. Certainly not an award winner by any stretch of the imagination, and I am most glad I read this installment.

The Real Book Spy says

007 is dead. His body was found in the waters of Marseille, three 9mm bullets fired into his chest and stomach at close range. It's a devastating blow to Her Majesty's secret service, but it also paves the way for a younger agent to replace him. Thus, it's time for James Bond to officially earn his license to kill.

Before M is willing to officially elevate Commander Bond to Double-O status and give him a spot on the fifth floor overlooking Regent's Park, the young recruit is sent to kill Rolf Larsen, a traitor hiding out in Stockholm. While this scene is briefly referenced in Fleming's *Casino Royale*, Horowitz takes readers inside the old-fashioned apartment furnished with heavy dark German furniture, rugs, and chandeliers, as Bond does his job. Though it's his second assassination, this is much different than the first, when he shot someone by the name of Kishida. Larsen is much more up-close-and-personal, a true test of Bond's nerve and resolve.

With the bloody trial run complete, M promotes Bond, who chooses his 007 designation to send a message to the bad guys (a message that's too good to spoil here). And with that, James Bond, the newly minted 007, is dispatched to France and tasked with. . .

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