



The Facts of Death

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James Bond must find and infiltrate a cult of fanatical terrorists shrouded in the teachings of the Greek mathematician Pythagoras. With multiple assassins trying to subtract him from the equation, he's going to have to make every correct calculation--or the next number that comes up may be his own.

The Facts of Death Details

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Author : Raymond Benson

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From Reader Review The Facts of Death for online ebook

Carson says

After the successful inaugural entry in the Raymond Benson 007 novels that was Zero Minus Ten, The Facts of Death plunges Bond into so much intrigue and peril and descriptive globetrotting scenery that Benson suffers no sophomore slump.

James Bond successfully interacts with practically everyone we've ever cared for within MI6, be it Q, Money Penny, Tanner and both M's to date. Not to mention, he encounters a familiar friend when he travels to Texas. The plot while radical is certainly not outside of the realm of feasibility and the pace and plot keep moving steadily. The story is well crafted and there are no holes. We find ourselves very well engaged by Benson's version of Bond (which is the closest we've seen to Fleming's in quite some time) all while he mentally harks back to the missions we loved so long ago.

4 out of 5 stars.

John Yelverton says

James Bond has always had villains who were larger than life, but this particular villain was so larger than life that he was over the top. The shark jumping moment came when Bond had to solve a math problem to defuse a bomb. Thank goodness this was never made into a film.

Zohar - ManOfLaBook.com says

I liked this book better than the former one; Mr Benson is getting close to portraying Bond as a cold blooded, drunk, SOB. He is not there yet, I still get the feeling he is writing with a movie in mind.

The story is good, and I like the references to past stories, and the book shows the author did his research.

My grievances with the book is that the ending and some of the story is written specifically for a movie, the dialog is sometimes ludicrous, and the situations are not believable.

It's not Fleming or Gardner, but Mr. Benson is getting better.

Paul Williams says

This is a solid Bond novel.

David says

I can't quite identify why, without taking a lot more serious critical analysis time than I have to devote to the 007 series, but I feel about Raymond Benson's entries that he managed to restore something of Fleming that had been at least relegated to the second tier, if not entirely lost in John Gardner's later Bond books. The Facts of Death continues Benson's sequence of original Bond novels, following on Zero Minus Ten. Perhaps one aspect that pleases me about Benson's work is the regular allusion to even the oldest of the series. Benson, as editor of a 007 encyclopedia, knows the corpus, and brings it into focus frequently. Not to say that Gardner never did this. Again, inchoate sentiments. But I like where Benson steered the ship during his brief turn at the helm.

Chris Leib says

Good light read, would've fit in well with the Brosnan Bond movies. A little formulaic, but thoroughly enjoyable. If you like the movies, you'll like this book.

Bear Mills says

James Bond, to my mind, is very much like a superhero character from a comic book. Ian Fleming created this character, but he clearly now belongs to the ages and anyone with moxy enough to get published writing books about him. With that said, I very much enjoyed Benson's take on Bond. Comparing this Bond to the literary others is a bit like listening to multiple psychiatrists each giving their profile on someone they have examined. Or, to use a different analogy, it is like the Olympics. If you throw out the high and low score, what you are left with is generally a pretty good picture of the performance. Benson may not be the best Bond writer, but he is certainly not the worst. Because he isn't British, Benson brings something very fresh to the table. I hope he begins writing them again one day.

Steve Mitchell says

The Facts of Death is Raymond Benson's third addition to the James Bond series – if you count the novelisation of Tomorrow Never Dies – reads more like a screenplay for a Bond movie with the ridiculous gadget-laden Jaguar XK8 being even more outrageous than any of the cars in the films. This is not such a bad thing though. Where Ian Fleming tried to write – almost – realistic espionage thrillers, John Gardner fell afoul of trying to mix the realism with the fantasy of the movies and ending up with neither one thing or the other, Benson realises that this is pure fantasy and unashamedly just goes for it! Benson's style sort of works too, in the sense that this novel is very entertaining – if totally unrealistic – and the book does not get bogged down by the madness of the plot.

A series of terrorist attacks have been taking place in Greece and Cyprus where the agent of death is a toxin; the connection is that each attack is numbered and an ancient Greek god is always found nearby. When the fourth victim is M's lover – Alfred Hutchinson – things are brought a little too close to home. Bond tracks the Number Killer from London to Texas and back to Greece and Cyprus unearthing along the way a sinister cult of fanatics that follow the teachings of Pythagoras.

Clem says

Whenever I read a great book by a new author, I feel I've read a great book. Whenever I read another great book by the same author, I feel I've read a great book by a great author. Such is the case with Raymond Benson's second "official" James Bond book which came out around 1998.

Benson took over from John Gardner, who had the arduous task of taking over from the original author Ian Fleming. Most thought Fleming's books were outstanding, yet Gardner's were received in a much more lukewarm fashion. By the time Gardner was writing the books (he started in the early 1980s), nobody really cared about the literary James Bond anymore, it was all about the movies. (On a slightly unrelated note, none of Gardner's books were ever made into movies, yet most of Fleming's were).

Raymond Benson, however has always been a major fan of the books, and it was his intention to resurrect, so to speak, the James Bond of the books. Well, even though his works never made any best seller lists anywhere, it is of my opinion, that he is doing a wonderful job so far.

When I read Benson's first effort, I expected him to mimic Ian Fleming's style. Something I wasn't sure would work. Even though Fleming was very popular, styles change and tastes change, and I'm not sure today's literary crowd would consume one of these books with the same level of enthusiasm as one might have 60 years ago. Fortunately, it doesn't seem that Benson is copying Fleming to any great extent, he simply writes a great novel.

His books are not very lengthy, yet seemed packed with adventure. Adventure is not an easy thing to write about with conviction. Oh, sure, it looks great on the movie screen when 007 drives a boat under water, or is thrown out a plane without a parachute, but it's very difficult to maintain the same level of excitement on a printed page when describing such situations. So Benson knows his limitations, yet still manages to make these stories far from ho-hum.

The plot takes place largely in Greece and, like his first work, incorporates a lot of real life current tension within the plot. There's a big focus on the Greece-Turkey animosity, and it's used as a backdrop for the story. There's been a rash of mysterious illnesses around the world – an infectious virus that is hard to detect is killing any human being that comes in contact with another human being who is already infected. Think of something like Ebola. Well, fortunately the disease is somewhat slow moving, allowing Bond time to go to Greece, investigate, have several sexual encounters, drive a few Q-developed special vehicles, and even visit a sperm bank in Austin, Texas (Benson's hometown – he wanted to get it in one of his books). Benson gives us just enough detail to where we feel we have a solid understanding of the environment without miring us in the weeds of too much detail.

One curious thing about this particular book, is that Benson seems to be trying to uncover the "real" Bond. Sure, we all know he's handsome, swarthy, swashbuckling, and good with his fists, but there's a lot of hurt and emptiness in this man's life as well. Bond himself seems to be the most vulnerable after one of his many sexual encounters (emphasis on "many"). I'm not really sure this is completely necessary, but these diversions never take away from the action for very long, so it's a very minor detail.

Raymond Benson is no Ian Fleming – but I don't mean that is an insult nor a compliment. He simply does a great job bringing 007 back to the books in a very exciting fashion.

writegeist says

For a Bond novel, I thought this flowed much better than the first of Mr. Benson's novels. I enjoyed the plot, and the Bond girls abound. We still deal with a lot of villain "monologuing" and the perplexing quality of these bad guys to not just shoot Bond instead of giving him the chance to escape. Of course, that's all part of

the reason why you read a Bond book. I will continue to read on. I think with the second new adventure, Mr. Benson is hitting his stride.

Ira Livingston says

Benson, really begins to sore with his 3rd installment to the Bond cannon. I love the fact that his Bond is getting closer to Fleming's idea of a cold hearted, lone wolf, drinking, smoking, Son-of-a-Bitch of a man.

The sexual scenes become more graphic, and more often which adds another level that Bond fans have not seen before in the novels.

The story brings us back to Greece, with a nod to Colonel Sun, as well as other stories in the series. The villains are unique and keep you turning pages to solve the mission. I'm excited again about Bond which was hard to do with Gardner's style of Bond.

Would recommend to readers, and feel these might continue to get better as we go further into Benson.

overall rating of book series:

- 1 - Casino Royale / On Her Majesty's Secret Service
 - 2 - Goldfinger
 - 3 - From Russia with Love
 - 4 - Live and Let Die
 - 5 - Diamonds are Forever / Dr. No
 - 6 - Moonraker / For Special Services
 - 7 - Scorpius
 - 8 - Thunderball / License Renewed / The Facts of Death
 - 9 - Colonel Sun
 - 10 - You Only Live Twice
 - 11 - James Bond, The Spy Who Loved Me (Wood)
 - 12 - Icebreaker / GoldenEye
 - 13 - Zero Minus Ten
 - 14 - For Your Eyes Only / Octopussy & The Living Daylights
 - 15 - The Man with the Golden Gun / Tomorrow Never Dies
 - 16 - The Spy Who Loved Me
 - 17 - Nobody Lives Forever
 - 18 - No Deals, Mr. Bond
 - 19 - James Bond and Moonraker (Wood)
 - 20 - The Man from Barbarossa
 - 21 - Win, Lose or Die
 - 22 - Role of Honor / Brokenclaw
 - 23 - Death is Forever
 - 24 - Licence to Kill / Never Send Flowers
 - 25 - SeaFire / COLD
-

David Dalton says

Another enjoyable James Bond thriller by Raymond Benson. My first Bond book by Benson was , and I

thought that was pretty darn good as well. I have read all of the Ian Fleming books except the last one and I have on my Kindle.

Raymond makes several references to a few of the Bond movies and books by Fleming. A good nod to the origins/past adventures of Bond.

A good villain and a few tough henchmen and women. Bond being Bond, meaning great action and of course good looking women both good and bad. Picked up this thriller for only \$0.99. I plan to read more of the Bond stories by Benson.

David says

This particular installment in the Bond saga had a few "Bon Moments" in it. A Bond moment (my own personal definition, I suppose, derived from some of the Bond video games) is when Bond does something unexpected that results in an amazingly clever method of doing in an opponent. (Think throwing the guy in the bathtub and tossing an electric fan into the tub to electrocute the enemy-- or the end of OddJob at the end of Goldfinger).. There are a couple of cool moments like that in the book, which sort of helped the book along...

The book then suffers through a quirky plot with odd villains, multiple coincidences that enable Bond to solve some of the more mysterious problems in the plot, and of course, Bond's sexual escapades. In fact, I often wonder when reading a Bond novel if Bond ever meets homely women and if his sexual equipment would swing into action in those cases as well.

The action sequences in this novel are decent, often cinematic in scope, and at times, just a little too much to believe. In one scene, Bond leaps from the bed of a pickup truck and hangs from a tree branch over a cliff. He is wounded repeatedly, but sort of like Bruce Willis' character in Die Hard.. he is not stopped.

Still, Benson knows his Bond history. The novel offers a number of references to past events in Bond novels, both the original novels and those penned by John Gardner.. (there was even a reference to The Col. Sun affair, a rather obscure Bond novel written in an attempt to revive the series in the 1970's.)

I've read other Benson penned Bond novels and they were better than this one.. I think Benson is an adequate enough writer and does the series justice, just not this time around.

Mips says

Kijk, dat heb je nu als je je 10-jarige zoon alleen naar de bib laat gaan!
In plaats van met een B-boek, komt hij met dit thuis!
Ik citeer hem even...
Na 5 min : 'tof, al 34 doden'
Na 10 min : 'Coole titel : de geur van de dood'
Na 12 min : 'Een soevereine basis, wa is-da?'

Benieuwd hoelang hij het gaat volhouden.

Kerry says

This is not your father's Bond. Back story has been updated to avoid the ravages of aging. Still, good story.
