



**JAMES BOND 007
CONTRE "Dr. NO"**
(Dr. NO)

BOND ON GIRLS

How does one describe a 'Bond girl'? Bond girls are considered to be 'ubiquitous symbols of glamour and sophistication', according to Robert A. Caplen in his book *Shaken & Stirred: The Feminism of James Bond*, that is. Bond girls are certainly bewitching, beguiling and memorable but they are not always necessarily *just* the victims of Bond's charm: many villainesses, allies and co-workers are given the moniker too, as is my wife Kristina – my favourite Bond girl of all.

In Fleming's books, Bond girls always seemed to be in their mid-twenties, a decade or so younger than Jim, though in *Goldfinger* Fleming wrote that Bond suspected Pussy Galore was in her early thirties. An older woman? Perish that thought!

BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE ...

Needless to say, all Bond girls are very beautiful, more often than not sporting a light sun tan, and with their eyes and mouths widely spaced – or so wrote Ian Fleming. Their eyes, by the way, are usually blue, but in *Diamonds Are Forever* Tiffany Case's are chatoyant – 'varying with the light from grey to grey-blue' – while in *Goldfinger* Pussy Galore has deep-violet eyes, the only truly violet eyes Bond had ever seen.

Yes, they all usually have exotic-sounding names too. In addition to the aforementioned, we have Suki, Vesper, Honey, Tatiana, Solitaire, Chew Me, Bibi, Octopussy, Mayday, Kara, Lupe, Paris and Elektra. Suggestive, sexy and very, very Bondian.

Fleming indicated that most of the Bond girls were sexually experienced by the time they met 007, which is probably just as well. However, not all of their experiences had been positive, with histories of sexual violence often a contributory factor in alienating them from men – until Jim arrived on the scene. Jim, meanwhile, I should add, lost his virginity on his first visit to Paris when he was sweet sixteen.

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PREVIOUS PAGES: The most iconic of all Bond girl poses – Shirley Eaton was painted gold, head to toe, as the tragic Jill Masterson.

LEFT: Ursula Andress was voted 'Best Bond Girl of All Time' by readers of one national newspaper in 2008. She also received a Golden Globe as 'New Star of the Year' for her role in *Dr. No*.

BELOW: Eunice Gayson was the very first Bond girl. Her famous red dress was in fact a last-minute change, and as it wasn't made to measure, she had to use a few strategically placed clothes pegs to hold it together!



Though this darker backcloth to the characters is largely absent from the films, many Bond girls do face some abuse on screen – Domino (Claudine Auger) at the hands of Largo’s cigarette and ice in *Thunderball*; Andrea Anders (Maud Adams) in *The Man With The Golden Gun* is hurt by the dastardly Francisco Scaramanga; Lupe Lamora (Talisa Soto) in *Licence To Kill* is whipped by Franz Sanchez ... perhaps these events were behind their determination to resist Bond at first?

But Jimmy’s charms win through ... even in the case of lesbian Pussy Galore when, in bed, Bond says, ‘They told me you only liked women,’ and she tellingly replies it was because ‘I never met a man before.’

You have to laugh. To think Bond could turn a gay woman is quite comical. But then again, Judi Dench’s M did describe Jim as being ‘a sexist, misogynist dinosaur. A relic of the Cold War...’ in *GoldenEye*, so he’d probably like to think he could.

BELOW: Margaret Nolan played Dink in *Goldfinger*. A well-rounded role!



Cubby Broccoli admitted that Honor Blackman had been cast on the back of her success in *The Avengers*, despite the fact that the American audience had never even seen the programme. He said, ‘The Brits would love her because they knew her as Mrs Gale, the Yanks would like her because she was so good, it was a perfect combination.’

One time I was doing an interview with Jimmy Tarbuck on *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* and Tarbuck said:

‘You’re the Saint, Sean Connery is Bond, Patrick McGoohan is Danger Man and Patrick MacNee is in *The Avengers* ... do you ever meet up?’

I said, ‘Yeah, sure.’

‘Do you go out together?’

‘Yeah,’ I said.

‘Pussy Galore?’

‘Well, we don’t go looking for it ...’ I replied.

I’m still not sure how we got away with it!

ABOVE: Put ‘em up! Honor Blackman (centre) with Shirley Eaton (left) and Tania Mallett inside the Fort Knox set on *Goldfinger*.