

Carte Blanche

Just finished the latest 007 novel (if it is going to be a few more years before the next movie... glad someone was commissioned by the Ian Fleming family to write a new one).

Carte Blanche is yet another reboot of a classic character. Bond is introduced as an agent in his early 30s who is a veteran of the Afghan War. To me the last two movies which combined as a reboot failed horribly by being something the franchise is not. They are WAY too serious and totally dismissed what is so fun about the classic Bond movies.

However, they are all back in the pages of the first official Bond book penned by an American, [Jeffery Deaver](#) (author of such suspense novels as *The Bone Collector* which became a Denzel Washington/Angelina Jolie film).

Supporting Cast:

- M... Bond's boss is once again a male character. I enjoy Dame Judy Dench as the head of MI6 but liked a return to the classic male figure
- Q... Quartermaster... weapons guy who provides agents with the most advanced weaponry available... whether or not it comes back intact at the end of the adventure is always fun to see. Sadly missed in the last two movies.
- Miss Moneypenney... a bit different role in the books than in the movies but also missed in *Casino Royale* and *Quantum of Solace*.
- Felix Leiter... CIA Agent who has more of a cameo role in this one.

The Bond Girls: There are three in this one. One of the three MORE than lives up to her name. Another is as icy as Pussy Galore, herself.

The villain: Severan Hydt. Quite memorable. I don't think there has been a Bond villain quite as interesting in quite a

while.

Of course, 007 is sent on a hazardous mission with Earth shaking consequences and millions of lives at risk. All of these elements combine to bring James and company into the 21st century. The reader is even provided with quite a bit of backstory into the life of the secret agent that ties directly into the action. Exotic locales, breathless action sequences, and twists, including an ending most unusual for a Bond vehicle. Let's hope the movies get back on track.