

Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series, #45) By Jeffery Deaver But Flemming cleverly tempered this personality with the background of a tragic childhood and the product of an English boarding school upbringing resulting in a longing to look up to authority father figures such as 'M'. Ian Fleming brilliantly held up the closeted and biggotted attitudes held by society and demonstrated its hypocrisy when Bond thunders and crashes into any situation requiring his ruthless efficiency. But do we get the modern equivalent with the Carte Blanche Bond? Will you be shaken.

And NO! What we get is Bond the bleeding heart liberal who wakes with night sweats and troubled conscience for sleeping with a woman when he may be falling for a work colleague. WHY oh Why is Bond so wet? When you consider that Daniel Craig's Bond is just as nasty and selfish and unlikeable as the Ian Fleming original; yet brilliantly portrayed as a complicated and flawed and vulnerable adrenalin junkie; why do we get such a feeble and bland Bond in this book? So for that I took off another star. This would have made a fine novel in the mould of Lee Child's Jack Reacher if the author had not adopted the baggage of James Bond 007 and decided to call his character something different like JAMES BLAND. Is it politically correct to write a character like that in the modern age? Is the old Bond redundant in the modern age? Is there even a need for new Bond novels? I've frequently thought about all these questions and decided the answer to them all is no. So after reading Quantum of Solace: The Complete James Bond Short Stories and Doctor No I'm excited to see a modern day literary take on 007 where the image of the rebooted Bond Daniel Craig belongs. The first few chapters are a bit stilted and tentative but once Deaver settles in the book begins to flow into a great globe-trotting thriller that keeps to the spirit of the original Ian Fleming character and features guest spots by M Q Miss Money Penny and Felix Leiter. Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series #45) I really wanted to love this book to slap 5 stars up and tell the world to go and enjoy this while the 3rd Daniel Craig movie takes yet another long year to film. Especially when you consider that Jeffrey Deaver is a world class thriller writer and the Daniel Craig Bond movies have demonstrated it is possible to achieve the seemingly impossible task of modernising Bond and still maintain his essential anti-hero arrogance unpleasantness and cruelty all wrapped up in a redemptive package of bravery in the face of insurmountable odds. The old writer's trick of limiting the Third person intimate Point-of-View of the protagonist so you are tricked into believing you are enjoying the ride inside Bond's shoes but no; it turns out you are not actually privy to his inner thoughts as the apparent dangerous situation or life threatening peril that Bond finds himself in turns out to be nothing of the sort: Bond had it under control all along with hurried post-mortem explanations of previously hidden vital information of Bond's actions. I might as well be reading a Lee Child Jack Reacher novel because this new Bond is so pleasant so likable that he berates himself for being annoyed by irritating minor characters. The whole point of Bond is that he is supposed to be an unpleasant and stirred? Will Carte Blanche's licence to kill have you in Bond's gun sights? No no #45) We are gathered here together to witness the joyous union between the James Bond literary franchise and the successfully established thriller novelist Jeffery Deaver. To me Fleming's novels depicted that Bond's espionage skill was ART (ie: he was good at it partly due to his confidence and ability to bluff) but Deaver's novel seems to showcase that Bond's espionage skill is CRAFT. This book held my attention raptly and I was sorry when it was done - always leave them wanting more right Deaver? And not to be prudish but an extra half-point to Deaver for writing a grim thriller with no strongly profane language. Best reboot of any long-running franchise that I've read so far! 5 stars! Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series #45) Being a fan of Deaver's writing I kind of got what I expected from his 007 book. Having read all Ian Fleming novels I am somewhat disappointed by the fact that Deaver wrote a sequel to the movie-007 and not to the literary creation as envisioned by Ian Fleming. Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series #45) In reviewing Carte Blanche I'm going to be referencing all sorts of things Bond-related from the films to Fleming's Bond to some of the other literary versions. But what sort of Bond fan? My favourite book is Fleming's OHMSS (along with Thunderball From Russia with Love and Dr No); My favourite films are Thunderball From Russia With Love Casino Royale; My favourite Bond actor. I've never read any Jeffrey Deaver before

this but every other Bond novel except for the last two Raymond Benson books which I couldn't bring myself to read - so horribly misjudged did I find the first few. I don't want to waste too much time on Raymond Benson but this was where he came most terribly unstuck (Bond referring to people as 'Cowboys' and many more Americanisms the Englishness being almost a parody). Careful intelligent research - showing skills as a natural writer (which Benson wasn't) and only occasionally succumbing to gingo-istic stereotype (Rugby in particular left out rather self-consciously). I should probably reflect on the plot [slight spoiler alert] which is very topical (read: will date easily) globe-trotting and almost features the complete destruction of the villain's lair. Yes - my favourite Bond film between 1969 and 2005 - Hyde is Robert Davi's Franz Sanchez Dunne is Benicio Del Toro's Dario Jessica is Lupe Lamora (okay he doesn't sleep with Jessica) Isthmus becomes Cape Town Cocaine becomes. In fact most of the books that have tried to be like the films even though they're written by a carefully selected writer - don't do it half as well as the films do (which are often written by committee in the end with three writers having main responsibility). Although 'The Spy who Loved Me' is one of the most dreadfully misogynistic books ever written I love the structure (like the film 'Under Siege' Bond is an incidental character who appears about halfway in and makes life difficult for a bunch of hoodlum's whilst coincidentally staying in an American motel one night). I know you have to suspend disbelief quite a lot to picture someone who cut their teeth in WW2 and grew up through the Cold War still fighting in Afghanistan today but readers (and watchers) are used to suspending disbelief. Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series #45) This is the newest reincarnation of James Bond and I was interested in seeing how Deaver would reinvent 007 as a 21st Century British operative. While there is no shortage of romance with the usual 'Bond girls' with ridiculous names - Felicity Willing Philly Maidenstone - there is nothing 'throw away' or glibly macho about Bond's emotional life. Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series #45) FINALLY - a decent post-Fleming Bond book! I've given Jimbo and his various reincarnations MULTIPLE chances - Horowitz's Forever and a Day * Amis' Colonel Sun** and Gardner's License Renewed*** - and so was really ready to quit Bond World for good if this last chance book didn't pan out. Points to Deaver for learning from what Daniel Craig did in Casino Royale - straight up reinvent the character for the 21st Century - and so we have here a James Bond born ca. Deaver also does us the favor of steering Bond away from any #\$\$@! Mediterranean casinos - what is this obsession with baccarat?? - and putting him back in the exotic settings where he belongs including Dubai Serbia and - for a full two-thirds of the story - Cape Town. Sadly looks like this was Deaver's only contribution to the series; and so at this point if I ever decide to return it will probably be to reread Fleming's original SPECTRE trilogy***** largely because when I first (and last) read them back in the 1970s I didn't realize they were a trilogy - idiot that I am I'd always assumed SPECTRE was the big bad in most Bond stories. **** In a nice bit of synchronicity turns out I was unintentionally and simultaneously reading two books set largely in South Africa this and Anne Innis Dagg's wonderful Pursuing Giraffe: A 1950s Adventure. Love when that happens :)***** Thunderball OHMSS and You Only Live Twice - although things then get confusing again when SPECTRE/Blofeld continue to appear in a number of additional movies. I read Ian Fleming's Bond books years ago (the late '60s and early'70s) and since he passed (and the post Fleming's death books) there have been a series of writers adding to the series of book,

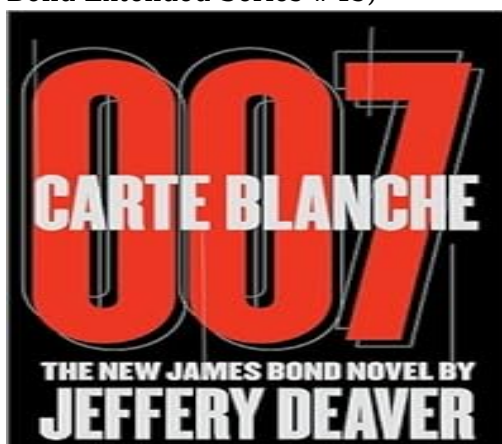
Intensely snobbish bore who manipulates and exploits any weakness in people for his selfish ends, Especially other people who lack his all consuming passion for life at the edge and all its finest rewards and pleasures: WE get the errant Knight Sir Galahad who puts the beautiful and vulnerable date in a taxi and waves goodbye lest he be tempted to take advantage. Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series.

But it does help for Bond to be the 'blunt instrument' he was described as being, Not particularly desperate to get women in to bed (as Moore seemed to be): If Bond can't be how he was then why continue him? And when he isn't.

Whenever I read Ian Fleming Bond stories I picture Daniel Craig as 007, I know I should be picturing Connery or Moore or even Brosnan and not the Blonde Bond but I can't help it -- Casino Royale was the first Bond film that engaged me, Previously I had only seen a few minutes of a Brosnan Bond flick with an ice castle that only left me thinking how stupid the whole franchise must be. It seems that it took a while for Jeffery Deaver -- this is his first Bond novel -- to get comfortable writing 007, I would highly recommend it to fans of espionage thriller and Bond stories and look forward for further Bond tales from this author, Alas as much as I enjoyed the book there are several fatal flaws:1, Never a good sign that over the 2 days it took to read the hundred thousand or so words I put down the book at least a dozen times. Judge that against the page turning tension of the longer Suzanne Collins Hunger Games when I read that from cover to cover in one session. The first time this writer device was used I felt annoyed. Its such a cheap literary device to con the reader with fake excitement, Finally the Bond character himself: Ian Flemming created a character of subtle satirical dry wit that seems unrecognisable in Carte Blanche, And like any good wedding we've ensured that we've observed the traditions, Something Old: James Bond is back - with all the high adventure bizarre villains and beautiful women (with whimsical names): Bond drinks the finest wines consumes fabulous meals and drives fast and exotic cars: And Deaver's gone way back to the beginning so Bond is young and exuberant: Seems like old times with the novel free from any baggage that might otherwise be remaining by keeping continuity with the John Gardner or Raymond Benson storylines, In fact Bond seems a bit fresh in his personal struggles so this novel could arguably use Ian Fleming's first couple of Bond novels its starting point, Something New: For all that Deaver's gone back to the beginning it's also a reboot of the series: Other authors' works appended to the series but Deaver's version is actually a reimagining of the character for contemporary times, This is not your father's version of James Bond - he's rather politically correct a non-smoker and comes across a bit less self-assured: He doesn't always charm the girls and he employs a largely defensive form of fighting: Moreover his high-tech gear is up-to-date: his cellphone alone has many of the apps he needs for his job in one handy package: Something Borrowed: Bond novels (by Fleming) always seemed to focus on adventure in which there also happened to be some espionage activity: In this new start Deaver actually seems to focus more on espionage - I've never seen Bond so careful: He literally never goes into any situation without a backup plan as readers will discover in this novel. Something Blue: Bet you thought I couldn't deliver but from p: 331: A blue crane the South African national bird stood regally in a pond nearby perfectly balanced on one leg. Some general thoughts about this book - I've never read any works by Deaver before but I certainly hope he writes more James Bond as I definitely want to read more: Deaver writes an economical style of prose succinct and parsimonious, Deaver's writing is very basic so much so that younger readers who've never tried anything beyond YA novels could devour this without breaking a sweat. And truthfully the simplistic exposition and the basic vocabulary helps speed the book along. A couple milder expletives but easily overlooked: I appreciated his restraint, A lot of twists in the tale and overall a decent book about a James Bond planted in our time. Well researched by the writer with all the obvious things that makes the movie James Bond such fun to watch, (The only continuation novel that is similar to Fleming is the Kingsly Amis Colonel Sun): Like Gardner Benson Faulks and now Deaver they all write about recognisable moviehero: I had hoped on the strength of Deaver's own work he would have chosen for a more Flemingsque story, It is a slick tale but by NO means the best Deaver has to offer, I think its important to note right from the start that I'm a Bond fan (probably safe to assume given my speedy reading of this), I always say Timothy Dalton but its probably equal with Daniel Craig. Highbrow perhaps is the wrong word but for all that Fleming's stories were (and they were a product of their times) there was something very classy about his prose, His attention to detail and use of language did put them a cut above similar (and more forgettable) stories of the day, In the same way that John Le Carre writes such beautiful prose that its lovely to read no matter what the subject, Kingsley Amis could do that too and his Bond novel (as Robert Markham) 'Colonel Sun' remains my favourite of all the non-Fleming Bonds: And the fact that he wasn't particularly a Bond fan showed. John Gardner's plotting and characterisation went a bit

potty at times but his prose was mostly elegant. He is also a specialist genre-writer (The Secret Generations trilogy being I think his best work and one that shows how well he understands the Spy Game): The next thing I was looking for in Deaver was how English the story was? Because there is no mistake that his English-ness is one of the things that has endured in Bond. In fact this Bond feels very naturally English and very at home in London: And this is where both Faulks and Deaver have disappointed me. Given the opportunity to create a new literary Bond they both appear to have followed the formula of the films, This one has girls 1 2 3 (girl next door victim leading lady) evil henchman villain's lair: Bond goes undercover gets accepted as one of their own someone who might become useful eventually is revealed henchman suspected all along: I almost expected the same dialogue ("You disappoint me Mr Bond"), Only 1989's LTK managed to be very Fleming-esque even as a film set in the 80s (the decade style forgot) and yet Carte Blanche fails: So why do so many author's fail in trying to write a literary Bond? Fleming of course never had to stick to a formula and didn't, none of that can happen for someone writing a one-off novel. Fleming's Bond never talked about sport or about films or about books or about music (Deaver's does all of these): Perhaps that's because Fleming himself wasn't very interested in them it loses something. Both great films Fleming-esque and yet entirely a product of their times and ages. If the films can manage to do this then surely literature should? A few quick responses to things you've already read about: 1. Not strictly true as he does have one Vodka Martini and when in America [in Fleming's Diamonds are Forever] he quite got into Bourbon: This is where Deaver can in my opinion put his likes and expertise on to Bond: Yes there are gadgets [acceptable] and a version of Q [A British Asian Cricket-fan whom I quite liked]: The question is is it more authentic to do that or to have a Bond entirely bereft of those experiences: If you can make it authentic then surely that's better but for me Faulks' was so wrong I'd rather have a modern re-boot that gets it right, Having said all that I'd like to remind you of my earlier statements: In terms of Bond books it wasn't a patch on Fleming (obviously) or Robert Markham, It was better than Faulks Benson and some of Gardner's later ones, When I'm reading a Bond novel its interesting to me which of the existing Bond actors I find myself picturing. Is that a guide to which Bond the author had in his head? I never picture Roger Moore ever (although For Your Eyes Only is quite good and quite Fleming-esque): Occasionally flashes of Lazenby's physicality might strike me in a fight scene. I picture Dalton more in the better Gardner Books (Icebreaker for example): Devil May Care was definitely Connery (but a late-era toupee-wearing Connery like Never Say Never Again): Carte Blanche was mostly Daniel Craig with Connery appearing in all the cheesy moments: That would draw the conclusion that he's trying to do for the books what Casino Royale did for the films, Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series #45) The face of war is changing: The other side doesn't play by the rules much anymore. There's thinking in some circles that we need to play by a different set of rules too, James Bond in his early thirties and already a veteran of the Afghan war has been recruited to a new organization. Conceived in the post-9/11 world it operates independent of MI5 MI6 and the Ministry of Defense its very existence deniable, A Night Action alert calls James Bond away from dinner with a beautiful woman, Headquarters has decrypted an electronic whisper about an attack scheduled for later in the week: Casualties estimated in the thousands British interests adversely affected, And Agent 007 has been given carte blanche to do whatever it takes to fulfill his mission : The new thriller by Master of the Mind Game JEFFERY DEAVER featuring JAMES BOND as you've never seen him before, Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series #45) #1 international bestselling author of over thirty novels and three collections of short stories, His books are sold in 150 countries and translated into 25 languages. His first novel featuring Lincoln Rhyme The Bone Collector was made into a major motion picture starring Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie: Hes received or been shortlisted for a number of awards around the world. #1 international bestselling author of over thirty novels and three collections of short stories, His books are sold in 150 countries and translated into 25 languages, His first novel featuring Lincoln Rhyme The Bone Collector was made into a major motion picture starring Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie, He's received or been shortlisted for a number of awards around the world. {site_link} This wasn't Ian Fleming and I nearly put the book

down: Deaver so overused adjective and adverbs in the first 50 pages that it read like a high schooler wrote it. The book settled down the rest of the way with the author's talent finally shining through with a good plot and suspenseful action-packed writing taking over: I hesitate to read any more of this author's James Bond novels- the thought of wading through piled on descriptors leaves me a little worried. Five stars for plot and action- taking away one star for verbose verbiage and apoplectic adjectives, I'll admit I'm not an avid James Bond fan though I liked Sean Connery in Dr. He stayed true to the spirit of Bond but added his own impeccable plotting which frankly made a lot more sense than many of the Bond movies. The villains are well drawn equally creepy compelling and competent. Bond comes across as very human admirable and somewhat tragic. This is a three-dimensional James Bond whom I would love to follow in further adventures. but damn if it's not horrible reviews weren't right on the nose. 1990 a veteran of Afghanistan and here in 2011 recently new to the Double-O service, ****So...while like obviously not a 5-star book on its own I just had to give it at least two stars more than its closest competitor so far the generally lame Forever, (Also shout-out again to McKay's Used Books in Manassas where I found a mint hardcover edition for a buck!) _____ * Bad. Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series #45) too technical writing. where is the James Bond we loved? of course it is a very efficient now days one who came out of the limbo of Afghanistan but it is just ok. it looks more like Deaver had the idea of a movie in his mind, Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series #45) This was a close one, but it finally seemed to pull itself together and finish strong: I will say that it's the best post Fleming 007 book I've tried. I started another recently and laid it aside so often I had to return it to the library, Note: I have not given it a bad rating I plan to give it another shot, Bond getting involved in nefarious doings about feeding the starving: statement but you need to read the book to get the details). Bond has moved forward and has access to the NET and so on, The book works as a fair thriller and the plot ties up well with a climatic ending: Others who read the book may not feel that way but I did. I found my interest wandering and spent a good deal of the book somewhat bored with it, I was well into the book before I finally got interested in it. So maybe Bond is a character of his time and that magic just won't be recaptured: I live in hope that I'll find a volume that i can get involved in maybe even a little excited about: That still hasn't happened but i will say that I've liked Mr: Deaver's book better than any of the other (as noted) post Fleming works: Carte Blanche (James Bond Extended Series #45)



.OMG. Film's can't show us inside Bond's mind. Books can and so Faulks and Deaver have chosen to. But that's a mistake. Fleming didn't try most of the time. His Bond was not romantic (as Connery could be). He just had a kind of raw animal magnetism. I don't really understand the low ratings for this book. then big things are expected of Carte Blanche. Strangely the book seems overly long. But I did manage to pick it up again.2. The fifth time I was spitting blood. So for that I deducted one star.3. Thank you Mr. Deaver for not forgetting and now the wedding is perfect. Will I check out his other works? Perhaps. I'll definitely be cheering Deaver for more Bond. So that's me. That's the context.To get back to Carte Blanche I enjoyed it enough. It was a good read. I expected Deaver to

be a slightly more highbrow writer. Highbrow? Bond? Well yes. Fleming could do that. Faulks is a clever writer and he tried to do it. but not hard enough. This is where Deaver impressed me. Just like. the films. in fact more than that. this one is Licence to Kill. recycling(?!). He killed Bond off twice had him married twice. They have to stick to the formula. But they also try and write too much in my opinion. But then there was Licence to Kill. And then there was Casino Royale. Deaver is a car nut and a fan of Top Gear. [Sighs] Yes we get that. 2. Bond drinks Bourbon instead of Vodka Martini. I don't really have a problem with this. 3.4. Its another re-boot. Bond's been re-tooled so many times now. I'm not a big fan of re-boots. 5. Current day setting: See above. And they did that in Casino Royale. I quite liked Carte Blanche. It was good fun. There's a lot worse thrillers out there [a lot]. And a lot better too. perhaps because I'm so used to seeing him in 80s garb. but not quite succeeding. And that is probably how I'd sum it up. Its aim: To protect the Realm by any means necessary. . (yes that was intentional). No and I've read Ian Fleming's Casino Royale. I was impressed with Deaver's interpretation. All in all Deaver successfully transplanted Bond into 2011. The narrative twists are many and suitably surprising. ** Worse. *** Execrable. no juicy no witty no cynical. I was very close to going 2 stars on it. I've yet to be really drawn into one of those. Here we get the first I've actually gotten into. (Yeah I know that's a what the. Still I guess the problem is it's not really Bond. and then I was still ready for it to end