

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My first encounters with James Bond were in the 1980s. My grandparents took me to the cinema to watch the latest Bond films on the big screen, my mum bought me some of the Ian Fleming novels from her book club magazine, and at one point I also remember eating a lot of Shredded Wheat in order to get *Octopussy* (1983) stickers and send off for the badge and Secret Agent code card. This book is in part the product of that earlier fascination, which later combined with an academic interest in the larger-than-life character who is highly problematic yet somehow endlessly watchable. Thanks go to my brilliant coeditors on this shared Bond project for selecting me to be part of this particular mission, and to the wonderful contributors who joined us out in the field. I am also grateful to family, friends, and colleagues at UEA for enduring my ongoing Bond obsession. Most of all, thanks to Jaqueline Furby, who still lets me watch Roger Moore as Bond at (almost) any opportunity.

—Claire Hines

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Like many of us, I would imagine, the character of James Bond has been a part of my life for longer than I can remember. Some of my earliest film memories are Bond-related, both at the cinema and the then-perennial but now long-gone “James Bond film at Christmas” tradition. It is for these reasons and many others that this project has been a real pleasure to work on from its opening

gun barrel to its closing credits. I would like to sincerely thank my delightful coeditors, Claire Hines and Stuart Joy, for going on this journey with me. While it has not been quite as adventure-packed as a Bond film, it has certainly been an eventful project with its very own memorable twists and turns. I would also like to thank my young son Wyatt for watching the films with me, especially those from the Moore era, which I watched for the first time when I was just about his age so long ago. His questions about the films were no doubt very different to my reactions to them back in the 1970s and 1980s (“Daddy, why is James Bond so mean to those ladies?”), but at the same time the delight he found in them even now perhaps explains in part why the character still resonates for audiences and has endured for so long.

—Terence McSweeney

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I was first introduced to James Bond by my older brother. As a child, I vividly recall watching the opening scene of *GoldenEye* (1995), in which the fictional British spy (at the time played by Pierce Brosnan) performs a daring bungee jump off the Verzasca Dam. It was then that I became instantly captivated by the figure, a feeling that persisted throughout my formative years and adolescence. Like many other Bond fans, 007 has remained a perennial feature of my adulthood, thanks in no small part to the character’s ability to transcend time periods and trends, but also through his capacity to connect us through shared memories to the people we care about. Therefore, I consider myself fortunate to have been a part of a project that holds a special place in my heart and to have been privileged to work with such amazing coeditors and contributors, whose dedication and work made this collection a delight from pitch to page. I am also extremely grateful to the staff and students at Solent University for their support and enthusiasm for the project. Finally, thank you to my wife for always being my guiding light and for politely enduring a lockdown-induced Bond movie marathon.

—Stuart Joy

JAMES BOND
WILL RETURN

