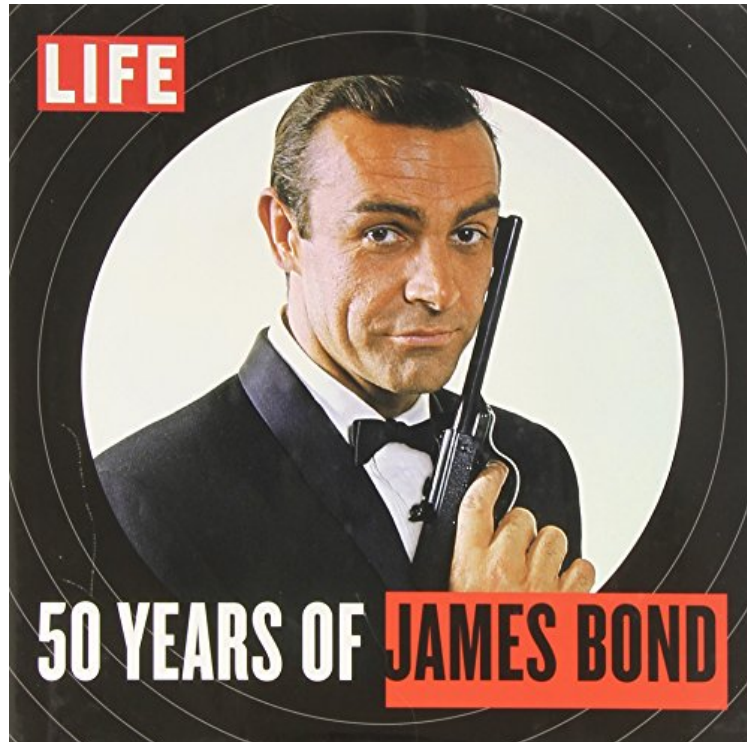


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The Editors of LIFE Books : LIFE 50 Years of James Bond before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised LIFE 50 Years of James Bond:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Bond, a bit slim, but a must for Bond fans anyway. By raydI've only skimmed thru the coffee table type book. Seems good, more or less, though I've some better ones (I think) from over the years. This is very prelim. cursory review...if you're a die hard 007 Bond, get the book anyway...it will add to your collection. I've been a Bond fan, thru moviedom since Dr. No, thru now. Saw the TV version of Casino Royale, went thru some of Fleming's novels, saw spoof type flicks, have my favorites as 007, certain flicks, etc. Guess we all do, but that's to perhaps discuss another time, maybe elsewhere, dunno. Overall, guess I'm just addicted to the 007 Bond, James Bond material, in general. Yes, there were a few movies I didn't care too much for, I won't knock any though. I do however have 2 sore spots, which is why I'm posting this. One is that most Bond movies, and several other famous, good films, had the melodious, hauntingly beautiful, yet spirited music of the late, great John Barry. Some movies without his music was just lacking to me. I hope to see this genius, modern composer's name mentioned in this book. Seems his passing did not get the media coverage really deserved. Yes, there are other good maestros, but Barry had that something special. RIP John Barry...hope you are composing angelic melodies perhaps in the cosmos. Another thing...though Daniel Craig is a top drawer actor, there is a script to follow. As of late, the scripts haven't been that great to me ..and the 50th Anniv. movie might have been a swan song of sorts for the Bond we came to enjoy all these decades. Yes, Skyfall was action packed, but lacking in familiar Bond material we've come to enjoy...the gadgets, wit, flirtatiousness, innuendos, smiles, light jokes, futuristic things, and characteristics which made James Bond, 007 to his

many fans. Skyfall eg could have had an agent called Mr. Indestructible. Film was great for action, CG, and video gamer enthusiasts, but for die hard Bond fans, it was short on familiar "stuff." Would love to hear your comments, replies to this...we'd like our familiar type 007 Bond flicks back. The earlier films were exciting, imaginative, memorable and fun.32 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful looking book, but poorly researchedBy Timothy B. ClodfelterAn example: In the writeup on "You Only Live Twice," the writers assert:"For some reason, in You Only Live Twice, James Bond did not pilot any kind of vehicle -- first time ever."That being the movie with a lengthy sequence of some British guy named James Bond piloting Little Nellie, the portable helicopter, and getting into a dogfight with other pilots. You know, while he was piloting a vehicle.Why even make that assertion in the first place, let alone make it when you're entirely wrong in a way that should have been caught by anyone actually watching the movie? Sloppy, lazy work.There are also such oddities as the writeup on "Thunderball" being one-third as long as the writeup for the 1967 "Casino Royale." As long as you don't rely on this for any research, and take some "Facts" with a grain of salt, it's a passable read, but the main draw would be the plentiful photos.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Impressive Piece of History and EntertainmentBy A. LucasThis book was purchased as a gift, although I certainly looked through it myself before packaging it and passing it on to its rightful owner. There is a good balance between text and photos, and it does a nice job of walking you through the years of Bond. This is an excellent coffee table book - I knew we had to have it for my father in law after I picked it up in a hotel lobby. Shout out to that hotel - their "lobby library" was stocked with books like this in a cozy reading nook...a welcome change from magazines and brochures for local attractions.

Fifty years (and five billion dollars in ticket sales) ago, the dashing Scottish actor Sean Connery declared suavely that he was "Bond, James Bond." Thus began a cinematic series unlike any other. In November 2012, Skyfall, the 23rd movie in what is seen as the authorized line of Bond films, will be released, with Daniel Craig (the sixth Bond) again in the lead role. The world will once more stream to the theaters for another dose of Bond. LIFE was on the scene in the swinging '60s when James Bond became a cultural icon (in fact, when we put the gold-painted actress Shirley Eaton on the cover in 1964, we helped him along), and now LIFE tells the whole story in this commemorative book. Ian Fleming, a high-ranking officer in British Naval Intelligence of World War II, dreamt up his MI6 spy, code number 007, in 1953, and a decade later, with Dr. No, From Russia With Love and then the smash Goldfinger, saw his creation take on a life entirely his own. All the fun of Bond is here: The movies; the reminiscences by the stars; the LIFE photo shoots; the knockoffs and spoofs ("The Man from U.N.C.L.E.;" "Get Smart;" "I Spy;" the first Casino Royale); the artifacts (a model of Bond's Aston Martin DB5 was one of the best-selling toy of 1965); the trivia and inside information on M, Q and Moneypenny-anything a Bond fan would want, packed into one book and then shaken, not stirred. James Bond was, back in the day, one of those cultural phenomena tailor-made for LIFE: It was bright and colorful and vibrant. Today, it still is. Happy birthday, and welcome back, Commander Bond.

About the AuthorThe editors at LIFE vigorously carry on the traditions of excellence in photography, in journalism, and in telling the story of our country and our world which began with LIFE magazine in 1936 by founding editor and publisher, Henry R. Luce. They have published books on a broad range of subjects, including New York Times bestsellers One Nation, LIFE Picture Puzzle and The American Journey of Barack Obama.