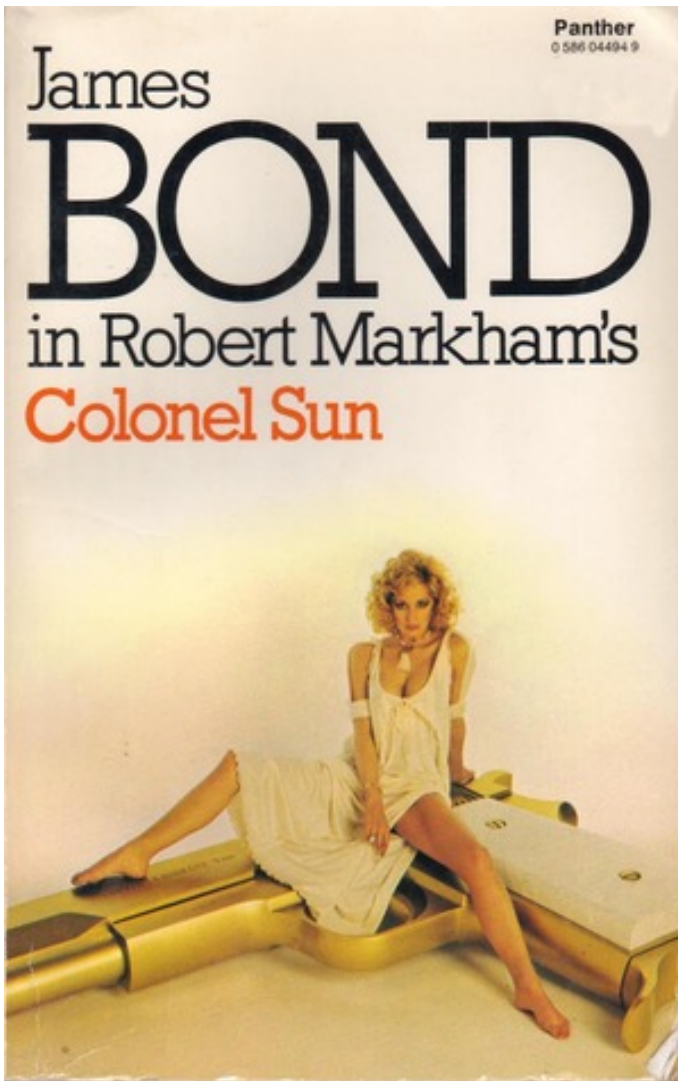

Kingsley Amis

Colonel Sun (James Bond - Extended Series #15)



Title: Colonel Sun (James Bond - Extended Series #15)

Author: Kingsley Amis

Format: Mass Market Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 221

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0586044949

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 9.2 MB

Download: allowed

Description

Lunch at Scott's, a quiet game of golf, a routine social call on his chief M, convalescing in his Regency house in Berkshire – the life of secret agent James Bond has begun to fall into a pattern that threatens complacency... until the sunny afternoon when M is kidnapped and his house staff savagely murdered.

The action ricochets across the globe to a volcanic Greek island where the glacial, malign Colonel Sun Liang-tan of the People's Liberation Army of China collaborates with an ex-Nazi atrocity expert in a world-menacing conspiracy. Bond finds himself working in alliance with the beautiful tawny-blonde agent of a rival secret service in the struggle to overpower this ruthless enemy who discards the unwritten rules of espionage. Stripped of all professional aids, Bond faces unarmed the monstrous devices of Colonel Sun in a test that brings him to the verge of his physical endurance.

Incredibly, the author adds his own imaginative impetus to the Bond saga yet preserves all the excitement and eloquence, the pace and glitter of a vintage Fleming novel.

Insightful reviews

Simon Mcleish: Originally published on my blog [here](#) in July 1998.

I don't think that the existence of this book is terribly well-known. It's a James Bond book written in the late sixties, and is not by either [Ian Fleming](#) or [John Gardner](#), who was licensed to continue the series by the Fleming estate. In fact, Robert Markham is a pseudonym used by [Kingsley Amis](#), of all people, a big fan of Ian Fleming.

Bond goes to meet M at his home in Surrey, and is surprised there by a gang of thugs who have kidnapped M and want to take James as well. Escaping from them with a superhuman effort, he returns later to find clues pointing to Athens. Knowing these to have been planted by his attackers, Bond decides he has to put his head into the trap in order to be able to save M from them.

The kidnapping is part of a complex Chinese plot to sabotage a conference of Middle Eastern countries taking place on a remote Greek island; the conference is run by Russians without the knowledge of the Greek government. The idea is to attack the conference with British-made weapons and then leave the bodies of Bond and M to make it look like a British attack, causing a loss of esteem for British interests and embarrassment for the Russians.

The book is exciting, and Amis-as-Markham has rather more of a sense of humour than Fleming. I would say its standard is at least on a par with the majority of Fleming's own novels, and better than the worst of them (such as [The Spy Who Loved Me](#)). The tension drops a little bit in the middle, which describes what is basically a short cruise in the Aegean, perhaps more exotic to readers in 1968.

In the end, I felt the book reminded me rather more strongly of [Peter O'Donnell's](#) Modesty Blaise series than the Fleming Bond books. There is a slight tendency towards "pornography of violence" in that series and here; there is an extremely unpleasant torture sequence conducted by the half-mad Chinese Colonel Sun on Bond to test the theory of the Marquis de Sade that torturing another human being would make him feel like a god. (He later admits that it made him feel evil and ashamed, which is perhaps better than expected from this genre of fiction.)

Craig Andrews: This book felt very Bond despite not being written by Fleming. With the exception of a really boring torture scene near the end it was a cracking tale. Recommended to anyone who liked Fleming's Bond.

Mister Future [formerly known as 'Pizzle']: Lacked the Fleming "sweep." Somewhat interesting plot but there was a lot of violence. I skimmed most of the book because I just couldn't really get into it. I thought Amis' beginning was good and I enjoyed the Quarterdeck sequence a lot. Unfortunately, the novel seemed to lose its momentum as it rolled on. It just goes to show you that nobody does a Bond like Fleming does a Bond.

3/5 Stars

Brad Lyerla: Robert Markham is a pen identify for Kingsley Amis, who used to be commissioned via Ian Fleming's property to jot down this James Bond sequel. If you love Bond, you then will like COLONEL SUN. It deals every little thing one expects in a Bond novel. And but it's greater than the typical Bond book. that's simply because Amis is a extra polished writer than Fleming or Gardner. His tale follows the Bond formula, yet his prose is healthier than Fleming's or Gardner's. and that's nice.

Arjun Mishra: this can be the 1st non Ian Fleming Bond event I attempted, so i used to be waiting for a departure in style. i can't say that i discovered one. Kingsley Amis begun the journey development off a subject that Fleming used particularly frequently, that being Bond's boredom in England and feeling that residing out a tame table activity pro with the occasional golfing consultation and place of dwelling in Chelsea used to be blunting his secret agent instincts and sharpness. The Bond psychology is among the most crucial facets of the tale to nail and very concentration on, so Amis starts good in his variation of the series. i do know there has been a few controversy among the Fleming property and Amis over no matter if Amis may still decide up the series. It surprises me that Amis even sought after it that badly, contemplating his renown got here from penning a unique type of novel, a los angeles fortunate Jim (which is certainly one of my favorites). He built a extra advanced plot than i've got come to anticipate from a Fleming adventure. Complexity is generally appreciated, yet that complexity didn't turn into transparent until eventually the plot actually constructed and resolutions have been occurring. The reader do not have to depend upon narration from the villain or mastermind of varied plots to determine what happened, love it is debriefing. There can be a clarity that accompanies the advance of the plot, which i can't say I experienced. i must take marks off from Amis's failure to clarify that. there has been mass confusion while the USSR and Bond needed to interact all of a sudden, in particular whilst it appeared transparent that Bond's tale girl, Ariadne, used to be prime Bond (willingly) right into a trap. That half nonetheless confounds me, even after examining summaries. the final tale is believable and sensible, though. Colonel Sun's

involvement forces unusual bedfellows, which consistently makes for a singular read, and creates alliances that will be rather be unlikely. Bond's alliance together with his conventional foes and Greeks makes that clear. Colonel Solar must have made extra appearances, or on the very least, extra extensive psychology into who he's and what China is doing might have crammed in early blanks better. We're given the entire description whilst Solar engages in his tools of torture and is derived off as that great man villain with a supremely masochistic curiosity in torture. This can be an relaxing continuation of our favourite spy's lifestyles and adventures written through an illustrious writer, yet as pointed out above, extra psychology of villains and extra balanced plot advancements are necessary.

F.R.: there has been all that fuss the opposite yr approximately Sebastian Faulks, an exact literary writer (unlike John Gardner or Raymond Benson) being employed to put in writing a James Bond novel. Wasn't it incredible? Evidence of the excessive esteem within which Fleming's writing is held. But neglected in all of the insurance was once that the Fleming property had employed a literary writer to write down a James Bond novel before. It may possibly say Robert Markham at the entrance of this novel, yet leap forward Mr Kingsley Amis. One of the issues approximately books like this is often definite point of pastiche is inevitable. In fact the writer doesn't are looking to cross thus far that all of it turns into parody, yet he does are looking to mimic the voice of the unique whereas telling his personal tale. And in this score, Kingsley Amis (a author now not routinely recognized for his thrillers) does Fleming perfectly. He particularly captures that blend of sex, sadism and the lash – in addition to the entire over the top intake that James Bond does so well. In truth it's so exact it can be fallacious for a misplaced Fleming (it's greater than 'The Guy with the Golden Gun', certainly) and perhaps that isn't so impressive as – regardless of their various backgrounds – Amis and Fleming have been a lot a similar kind of Englishman. Certainly either writers all through their paintings steadily turn into extra tough center conservative and reactionary. Without doubt if Fleming had lived, Mrs Thatcher may have given him a knighthood too. Following the occasions of 'The Guy with the Golden Gun' a delicate and bored James Bond is abruptly thrust from London right into a nice event off the Greek coast which has harmful outcomes for the complete world. There's a gorgeous woman, guns, boats, an excessive villain and a brutal torture scene. What extra may well someone relatively want?

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