

[Library ebook] Zero Minus Ten (007)

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Von Raymond Benson

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Von Raymond Benson : Zero Minus Ten (007) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Zero Minus Ten (007):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. My name is Smart, Maxwell Smart....Von Ein KundeFirst of all, let me congratulate Mr. Benson for breathing new life into a dying series (murderer = John Gardner). It was obvious from his writing that Benson found the characters and story exciting and had fun researching the story. And it's always a pleasure to read works by such authors. For that, this novel is a solid 3 stars. But this is not Fleming, far from it. I haven't reread the original series for a good 10 years now, so my memory may be playing tricks on me, but I do rememer that Fleming never made me laugh out loud because of the ridiculousness of it all. Complaint #1. WHAT'S WITH THE SHOES? Surely Q branch could've provided him with something a little more imaginative and glamorous? Hello? The is James Vodka Martini Bond?

Every time our superspy gets into trouble he'd 'remove his left/right shoe and pry it open'. From the contents of the shoe-suitcase we could've constructed the entire plot - bandages, antiseptic, antibiotics, painkillers (hmmm... Bond must get banged up pretty badly); plastic knife (oh, he gets deprived of his gun and needs a make-shift weapon); sunscreen (we already know he's going to Australia, must protect that complexion); mechanical tools (hmm... machinery fiddling time!); maps (our man will surely get lost); fire making equipment.... etc. etc etc. - all this in the soles of a pair of shoes. Either the man is wearing platforms or I'm getting too cynical in my old age. Please Mr. Benson, come up with some more interesting gadgets next time. Ian Fleming did better with his *From Russia with Love* suitcase. Complaint #2. Alright, so one of Fleming's trademarks is the detail... but he did it (as far as I can remember) seamlessly. I burst out loud laughing everytime we are given a lecture (make, serial number, diameter of the wheel, capacity, sponsor's email address) in a separate little paragraph at the beginning of the chapter. I appreciated the detail of Fleming, but I didn't want to know I was being educated! Complaint #3. The Mahjong game. Again, Benson tries valiantly to imitate the original Fleming. While the detail is great, I feel Benson had a little too much fun showing off how much he knows (or doesn't know) about the game. I normally love this kind of thing, really - that *Moonraker* Bridge Game is still one of my favourite scenes in the whole series - but this one just isn't well done enough to capture the reader's attention imagination. I know how to play Mahjong, yet I was left lost half the time. The other half I was bored. Oh, and one more thing - there is as much skill involved in the game as does say, bridge, possibly more. There is 3 times the number of pieces to keep track of and far more possible combinations. Please don't just find out the rules and make your own comments and pass them off as fact next time Mr. Benson. Complaint #4. While Bond's protective behaviour towards Sunni Pei is very chivalrous and sweet (and much appreciated by this female), I find it really hard to believe Fleming's Bond would have done so. This is not the Bond who killed Vesper Lynd as soon as he finds out that she's a double. The mission comes first, the girl comes second. He protects the girl for as long as he could without endangering the mission.... even the recent Movie Bond is doing better on this front. But this is not to say the book is without virtues. All the Fleming (and Gardner :() references are wonderful and Benson's physical description of Bond has this reader yelling out in delight. The torture scene reads straight out of a Fleming novel and the tight, interesting plot is a delight after so many tired pastiches from Gardner. Overall, a decent first effort, but I sincerely hope the next one is better.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A rocky beginning

Von Ein Kunde

Raymond Benson, a Chicago game designer who's the latest resuscitator of the James Bond literary franchise, has delivered his first 007 thriller, "Zero Minus Ten." But he has missed the mark by a mile. Benson, who's 41, was invited last year by heirs of Bond creator Ian Fleming to continue writing adventures for the British secret agent with a license to kill. However, the 007 whom Benson sends into tepid, slow-mo action in "Zero" is a pale imitation of the agent who -- during Fleming's heydays in the '50s and '60s -- upended world-domination conspiracies by the likes of Dr. No, Goldfinger, Blofeld and Scaramanga. Benson's Bond lacks the juice, panache and derring-do that quickened the antics of the original outsize hero. His 007 is leaden, one-dimensional and dull, and Bond's secret mission shows none of the inventiveness and boldness of fables like "From Russia With Love" or "Casino Royale." The latest Double-O Seven is lifeless, simplistic, with wooden style and cliché-laden narrative. The original Bonds stood for surprise. There's precious little of that in the bland, predictable Benson offering, though the book's storyline presented exciting opportunities. Benson sees a nervous Britain sending 007 into seething Hong Kong on the eve of the U.K.'s recent turnover of the Crown Colony to Red China. London fears baddies may scuttle the deal. Bond works feverishly to prevent that. John Gardner, the first author to rescue the Bond franchise, bowed out a year ago when, after 14 adventures with 007, his creativity waned. But the Gardner yarns still had more of the hyperbolic Fleming flair than does "Zero."

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Nicht ganz gelungene Premiere des John Gardner Nachfolgers

Von S. Simon

Ein Mix aus Stilhomage an Ian Fleming und den Stil der Kinofilme, so könnte man Raymond Bensons ersten Bond-Roman bezeichnen. Das er in Jamaika beginnt und Bond dort nun ein eigenes Haus besitzt, ist Ian Flemings Vorliebe für Jamika und der Tatsache geschuldet, dass der dort ebenfalls ein Haus besaß - Name Goldeneye. hnlich seinem Vorgänger John Gardner gibt Benson seinem Roman einen zeitaktuellen Background mit der Übergabe Hongkongs an China. Die erste Begegnung Bonds mit der Figur des Industriellen Guy Thackeray erinnert an das erste Treffen Bond/Drax in Flemings Roman *Mondblitz*. Das alles ist ja noch akzeptabel und als Fanverehrung zu verstehen, aber eine schlechte Idee ist es, sich Bond in ein billiges Etablissement verlaufen und anmachen zu lassen. Das passt einfach nicht zu der wüthlerischen Art Bonds, die Fleming skizziert hat. Zwar haben auch Teile von Flemings letztem Bond Roman *Der goldene Colt* in einem Bordell gespielt, allerdings in einem ehemaligen und nicht mehr als solches genutztem. Der weltgewandte Fleming wird schon gewut haben warum. Insgesamt gelingt es Benson jedoch ein recht spannendes Handlungsumfeld zu erzeugen und mit den Triaden Bond einen Gegner zu geben, mit dem er es noch nie zu tun hatte. Auch ist es kein schlechter Einfall, Bond direkt einmal in die Hhle des Lwen nach China zu schicken, wo Benson Fleming nochmals Reverenz erweist, indem Bond einen gefangenen Verbndeten ans Messer liefern muss, um seine Mission nicht zu verraten. Die gleiche Konstellation gab es in Flemings *Im Dienst Ihrer Majestät*. Eine gute Idee ist der Schauplatz Australien, der neu auf der Bond-Weltkarte ist. Allerdings schwächelt der Roman in diesen Szenen auch etwas, was an Bonds unglaubwürdiger Ausrüstung von Q und seinen Erlebnissen im Outback liegt. Fazit: Versuch Flemings, als auch dem Bond der Kinofilme

gerecht zu werden, der an zuvielen Recycling-Ideen und einigen Bond unwridgen Einflllen scheitert.

KurzbeschreibungIt's June 1997 and M despatches James Bond to Hong Kong to investigate a recent spate of unexplained incidents including a car bomb and an explosion on a floating restaurant. Bond's enquiries bring him into conflict with ruthless Triad gangs, a Chinese general, and the beautiful Sunni Pei..deThe Bahamas, Hong Kong, China, Australia--James Bond visits all of these places in Zero Minus Ten, conquering women en route. Set 10 days before Hong Kong is handed back to the Chinese, Bond is faced with a number of disturbing events: A nuclear bomb exploding in Australia; the gunning down of customs officers in England and an explosion killing the entire Board of Directors for Eurasia Enterprises in Hong Kong. What is the connection between these events? 007's mission is to investigate--before the friction between China and Britain escalates. The usual assortment of dysfunctional, larger-than-life adversaries is on display: General Wong, a ruthless tyrant with a penchant for torture using a rattan cane; Guy Thackaray, the alcoholic Managing Director of Eurasia Enterprises and Li Wei Tam, the leader of a deadly Triad. Bond's companion is the beautiful, almond-eyed, long-legged Sunni Pei, met working as a "hostess" in a Triad-owned club in Hong Kong. Will she be just "another in a long line of affairs which provided a few fireworks for a while and eventually fizzled out."? Amidst the action, Zero Minus Ten provides some interesting insight into Hong Kong during this tense period in history and there is a special edge to the sparring between Bond and the newly appointed "M"--a woman towards whom he feels both respect and fear. Bond's love of adventure and killing is evident throughout: "Blasting away the guards had actually felt good. My God, he thought. This was what he lived for. It was no wonder that he inevitably became restless and bored when he was between assignments."Zero Minus Ten is a rich adventure thriller, ranking highly in the Gardner/Benson series. --Julian BrosterKurzbeschreibungIt's June 1997 and M despatches James Bond to Hong Kong to investigate a recent spate of unexplained incidents including a car bomb and an explosion on a floating restaurant. Bond's enquiries bring him into conflict with ruthless Triad gangs, a Chinese general, and the beautiful Sunni Pei.