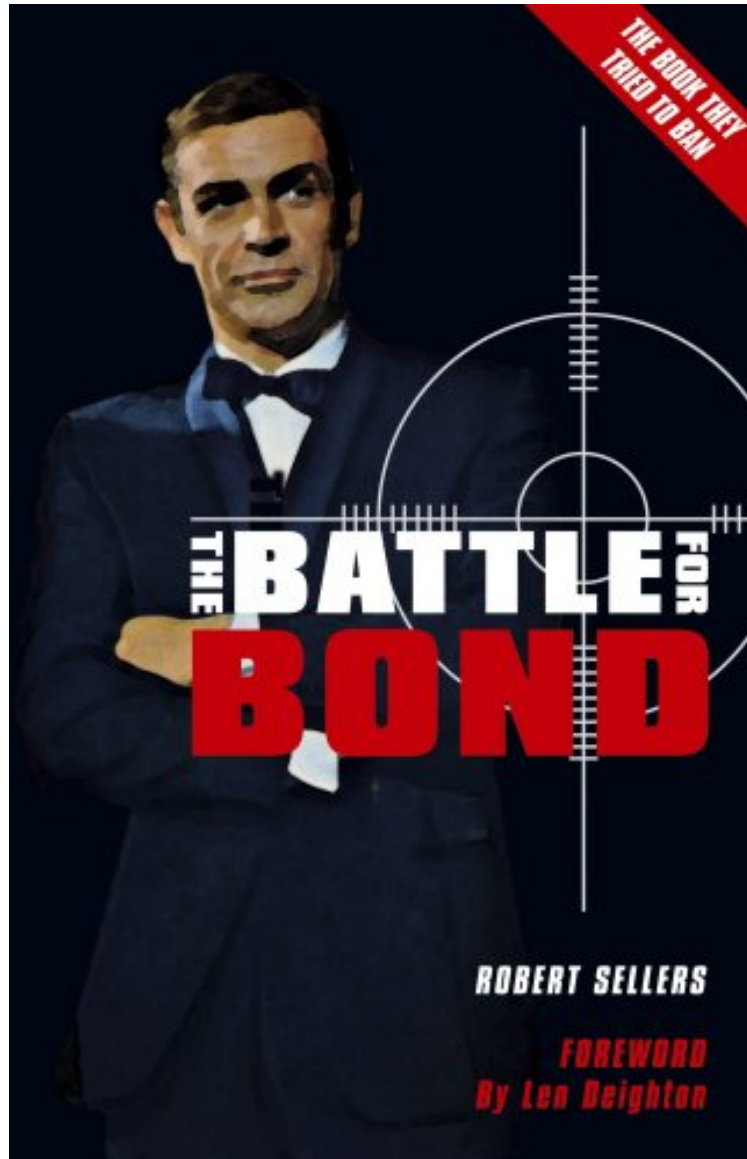


## The Battle for Bond

*Robert Sellers*

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#867658 in Books Tomahawk Press GA 2008-07-28 2008-07-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.53 x .78 x 5.701, .82 #File Name: 0955767008272 pages Tomahawk Press GA | File size: 33.Mb

**Robert Sellers : The Battle for Bond** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Battle for Bond:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. For Bond Fans By L. Cabos A lot of the history of THUNDERBALL isn't new to me but Sellers writes a really entertaining and fascinating bit of history. I couldn't put it down until I had finished it -- in one seating. Great treasure of previously unseen material (Connery scouting the State of Liberty for the never made WARHEAD, production drawings, rare photos, etc). As it has been pulled off the market because

litigation from the Fleming Trust (who could they be? Fleming's been dead since 1964, his wife died years ago and his only son died from a drug overdose in the early 1970's) so it is going to be harder to get. Worth the effort! In this you have -- in incredible detail and thoroughly enthralling -- the story of THUNDERBALL. Frustrated by earlier efforts to get his character to the big screen, he came in to contact with Kevin McClory -- an Irish film maker who had some kind of connection to Mike Todd's AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS. The film maker convinced Fleming to join him in creating a whole new story that would involve Bond in an underwater epic to be filmed in wide screen. In the end it went nowhere and Fleming went to his summer residence Goldeneye to write his Bond novel for 1961 and -- without anyone's permission -- used the story he had devised with McClory and Jack Whittingham and called it THUNDERBALL. In the meantime along comes Cubby Broccoli and Harry Saltzman. Originally Richard Maibaum was commissioned to do a screenplay based on TB but McClory's lawsuits forced them to start the series with DR. NO. Not wishing to enrage Fleming, Broccoli Saltzman did not pursue a joint venture deal on THUNDERBALL until after McClory had exhausted all means of getting his own Bond film off the ground and Ian Fleming was dead. In the deal that was struck, McClory was given the right to remake the film ten years after THUNDERBALL's release -- some wit once said that Broccoli Saltzman didn't think the series would live that long. In the book you will get a good look at what did happen. Well worth the price of admission. A pity WARHEAD was never realized. It would have been a much better film than NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the horrible legal battle over it and James Bond that have ...By pvdHave you ever wanted to every bit of history about the controversy surrounding the book Thunderball, Ian Fleming, Kevin McClory, the film THUNDERBALL, the horrible legal battle over it and James Bond that have for roughly 50 years. Then you must read this fascinating account about how Albert Broccoli and Harry Saltzman, then Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli trying to saving their legacy. I do not want to spoil this book. Once you start it, you cannot put it down. Highly, highly recommended!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Difficult Birth of 007By Syd DithersThis is certainly a good book for the James Bond fan (I include myself).It's probably worth reading for the general movie fan as well since one can see the roles of chance and chaos in any creative endeavor.The simple story of producers Albert R. Broccoli Harry Saltzman finding the 007 books by Ian Fleming and creating the biggest franchise in movie history just didn't come about that easily. In fact, Broccoli Saltzman don't play very big roles in THE BATTLE FOR BOND.The first third of the book meticulously chronicles Ian Fleming's attempts to get Bond on the silver screen, quoting or just reprinting the letters and cables between Fleming, his friends/business associates, the producer Kevin McClory and screenwriter Jack Whittingham. It quickly becomes a mess.The middle third discusses the filming of "Thunderball" with plenty of interesting tidbits from actors and crew.The final third follows the chaotic set of McClory Sean Connery's "renegade" Bond film, "Never Say Never Again," as well as McClory's attempts to hang on to Bond to his dying day.What jumped out at me while reading THE BATTLE FOR BOND was just how little happiness 007 and "Thunderball" brought to the principle personalities. Ian Fleming, already in failing health from 60 cigarettes a day and heavy drinking, slowly burned out and died of a heart attack just a few months after settling with McClory. Jack Whittingham also suffered from severe heart problems and risked death to participate in a trial that profited him nothing.Sean Connery, the actor who would become the biggest movie star in the world in perhaps the most iconic film character of the 20th Century, was sick to death of Bond by 1965's "Thunderball" and miserable. He then returned to the role in 1983's "Never Say Never Again" and was even more miserable shooting that unorganized film.And Kevin McClory, who begins this saga as a scrappy underdog but ends as a disgraceful, greedy thorn in everyone's side, ends a broken, bitter man, his last tenuous grasp on Bond finally wrenched from his dying fingers by the courts shortly before his death.I wouldn't call it "The Curse of Bond," but it doesn't look like any of the leads really savored and enjoyed the success of James Bond and "Thunderball."(Financially, Broccoli Saltzman would benefit the most but they don't play major roles in this book. There are plenty of people who complain about how cheap they were--Sean Connery first and foremost--but the author doesn't go into much detail about them.)A worthy entry in the Bond lore.

In 1963, Ian Fleming, the creator of the 20th century's greatest fictional character was in court, accused of plagiarism. The screen version of James Bond was not Fleming's creation. It was the creation of Jack Whittingham, who was employed by maverick producer Kevin McClory to adapt the character to the big screen. Had this screen character never been developed, James Bond might have been just another minor fictional spy character. The Battle for Bond is a tale of bitter recriminations, betrayal, multi-million dollar lawsuits and even death. It is the fabled story of Kevin McClory's 40 year legal battle over the rights to the screen version of James Bond, which he and Whittingham had created.The first edition of this book was banned by the Ian Fleming Will Trust. But the truth never dies!This second edition features a new foreword by Len Deighton.

About the AuthorRobert Sellers is the author of several entertainment books including biographies on Sean Connery, Harrison Ford and Tom Cruise. He was also the author of Very Naughty Boys the history of George Harrison/Monty Pythons HandMade Films, a book Empire magazine called, essential reading.