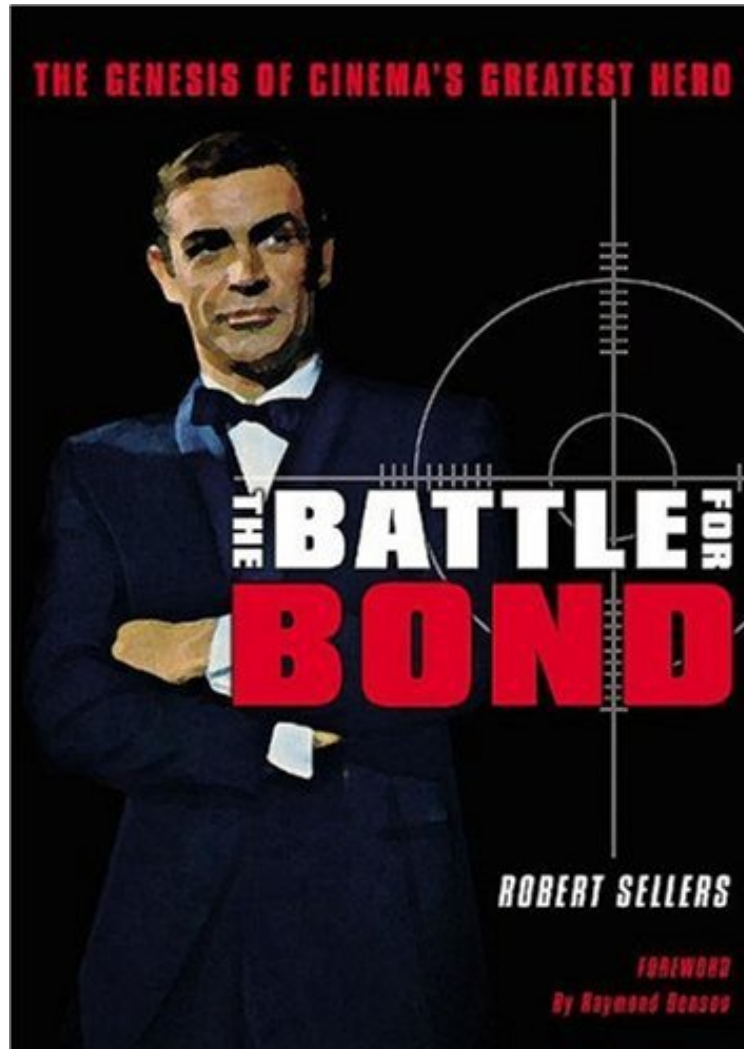


(Read now) The Battle for Bond: The Genesis of Cinema's Greatest Hero

## The Battle for Bond: The Genesis of Cinema's Greatest Hero

*Robert Sellers*

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**Robert Sellers : The Battle for Bond: The Genesis of Cinema's Greatest Hero** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Battle for Bond: The Genesis of Cinema's Greatest Hero:

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 sitting. 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.

Cinema history might have been very different had the first James Bond film not been Dr. No in 1962 starring Sean Connery, but Thunderball directed by Alfred Hitchcock in 1959 and starring Richard Burton as agent 007. It sounds preposterous and unbelievable, but it almost happened. The Battle for Bond unravels the untold story behind the most controversial part of the James Bond legend using previously unpublished material including letters and private documents. It is a tale of bitter recriminations, betrayal, multi-million dollar lawsuits and even death. It starts way back in 1959 when colorful Irish film producer Kevin McClory collaborated with Ian Fleming and Hollywood screenwriter Jack Whittingham on a screenplay for what was intended to be the first ever James Bond film, entitled Thunderball. When the project collapsed, Fleming instead used its plot as the basis for his next Bond novel, but without permission. An incensed McClory and Whittingham sued. The resulting trial was one of the most high profile and complex of the 1960s. Essentially the creator of the 20th century's greatest fictional character was in the dock, accused of plagiarism. Already gravely ill, many of Fleming's friends feared the pressure of the trial would have a detrimental effect on his health. Tragically they were proved right when only a few months later Fleming died of a massive heart attack aged only 56. As for Kevin McClory, he became a millionaire over night, winning the film rights to Thunderball. He was now in the enviable position of being able to make his own 007 movie. But the already established Sean Connery

series was a hard act to compete with and McClory instead decided to join forces with Albert R. Broccoli and Harry Saltzman in a one-off deal to co-produce Thunderball. Released in time for Christmas 1965, Thunderball was the Star Wars of its day, becoming one of the most successful films in movie history. In preparing the book the author was granted exclusive access to a wealth of previously unpublished material including hundreds of letters from the principal characters in the Thunderball story, including Fleming himself, business and private documents and never before seen papers from the 1963 court case. And also the five different screenplays that were written for Thunderball - two from Fleming and three from Jack Whittingham. The author also interviewed many of the actors and production people who worked on Thunderball and Never Say Never Again. Their memories and colourful anecdotes bring to life two of the most successful and universally popular Bond movies of all time.

About the Author Robert 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.