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James Bond - On the Rocks

England's greatest Master Spy is now in Canada's public domain. No longer protected by copyright or coddled by Her Majesty's Secret Service, James Bond, free agent, confronts his most diabolical challenge of all time – everyday life.

In **Bond on the Rocks, Private Lies of Privatized Spies** by Curtis Cook, James Bond leaves the imaginary realm of formulaic mass-market spy fiction to face the stark realities of the late 1990's as a jobless senior citizen in a world stumbling toward globalization, privatization and war.

The cultural icon that role-modeled the behavior of men for generations was pushed into retirement 20 years earlier by a feminist-led rebellion of clerical staff at Regents Park. He has blown through the personal fortune he accumulated as an irresistible and reckless super spy and is on the brink of losing his Chelsea flat to the bank. He is on the rocks.

When confronted with the typical demands of daily existence, Bond's trademark high-styling life of intrigue and glamour turns out to be little more than the fevered scheming of a high-functioning alcoholic.

"Very sad, very troubling but actually very funny all at once," writes Fulda Guada in *Arts Develo*. "We witness the real-world frailties, humiliations, joys, quirks and anguish of human struggle that the mythical hero has always managed to keep off-camera."

Bond's former colleague Mary Goodnight calls on him and discovers an appallingly pathetic version of the man she had once served and loved. She tries to help by connecting him with the former 006 who is now CEO of a flourishing private corporation in the emerging international security industry. Despite misgivings over the loyalties and principles of private enterprise, Bond finds the incentives, perks and female staff highly appealing.

He is dispatched to Saddam Hussein's Baghdad to locate and buy off a Russian physicist who absconded with plans for a high-tech missile defense system. But the physicist is an old-line Soviet-era Communist and declines lucrative offers to lure him to the West. With a major bonus at stake, Bond resorts to enhanced interrogation to uncover the missing plans – a bad move.

Bond on the Rocks is Cook's debut effort at "fictional analysis of fictional espionage." A former journalist and screenwriter, he is a resident of Downeast Maine with deep family ties to Canada. And, yes, he worked a short time in sales. But, no, he is not sanctioned by the Franchise.

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Review copies of *Bond on the Rocks* available worldwide at no charge: [REDACTED]
Commercial sales limited to Canada and other countries that are "life plus 50" Berne rule signatories.