

Eons Apart – Notes and Solution

I don't really remember the inspiration for the puzzle, but it was the first puzzle I've ever written for something like this, and I wanted to stay well within my limits to begin with.

I'm a bit of a Bond fan, and thought that something like the Bond film franchise provides a natural enough method of ordering and extracting letters from a numerical set. The method:

1. Identify that each given page describes parts of Bond films
2. Identify the number hidden within each page, and order the pages accordingly
 - a. "My number" cluing 7 was a bit of a further hint at 007 for those who had identified the numbering system but not the overall theme
3. Convert the Eon production number for each film to a letter. As two examples:
 - a. Dr. No, the first Eon production would clue the letter A.
 - b. Spectre, the 24th Eon production would clue the letter X

I wanted my answer to require solving the puzzle, not just brute force, hence film names/character names/actor names I excluded from the outset. The clue phrase also had to have no repeated letters to avoid having to include multiple numbers within each page – although repetition would have worked equally well too, I suspect. First gun was the first thing that came to mind that fulfilled those criteria, cluing the answer "Beretta 418".

There were two small issues in the puzzle design that were relatively easily overcome:

1. The non-Eon production Bond films
 - a. The Bond films Casino Royale (1967) and Never say Never again (1983), which were not Eon productions – these could either be included or excluded in the numeration.
 - b. Including them would make the count of Bond Films a tempting 26, however in the end I decided to exclude them using the title of the puzzle
2. The numbers in the answer itself
 - a. This was a small problem, as the answer checker does not recognise numerals. This was resolved by accepting both "Beretta" and "BerettaFourOneEight" as correct. Most teams entered "Beretta" and many entered "Beretta 418" (which was also regarded as correct as the numerals are disregarded).

Popular incorrect answers included:

- The names of all Bond films, particularly those referenced by the given pages
- The names of all bond actors
- "Call Me Bwana" – the only non-Bond Eon production
- WaltherPPK/Walther/PPK

See below for a tabulation of the required information.

Movie	Movie #	Letter	Hidden Number
Tomorrow Never Dies	18	R	3 (THIRD)
On Her Majesty's Secret Service	6	F	1 (ONE)
Diamonds Are Forever	7	G	6 (HALF A DOZEN)
The Man with the Golden Gun	9	I	2 (SECOND)
A View to a Kill	14	N	8 (RACE 8)
Casino Royale	21	U	7 (MY NUMBER)
The World is Not Enough	19	S	4 (FORTH/FOURTH)
Die Another Day	20	T	5 (FIVE)

The ultimate aim was to design a fun puzzle to solve. I hope you enjoyed it.

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