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THE INTERVIEW
**JAMES
FRANCO**

THIS IS THE
WAY THE
WORLD ENDS
**FAILED
STATES**
BY LESTER R.
BROWN

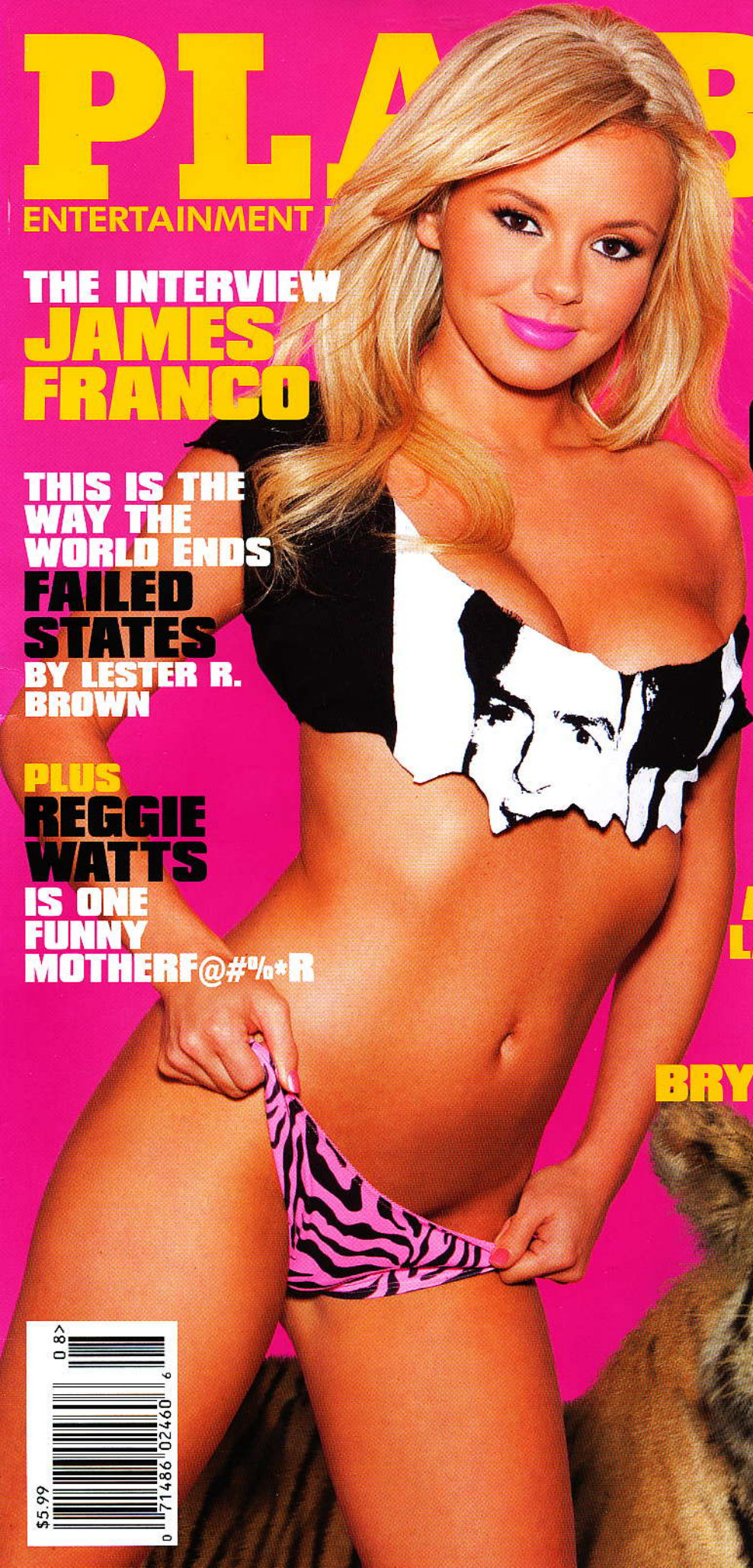
PLUS
**REGGIE
WATTS**
IS ONE
FUNNY
MOTHERF@#%*R

“GODDESS”
**BREE
OLSON**
REVEALS ALL
THE SECRET
SEX LIFE OF
**CHARLIE
SHEEN**

NEW FICTION BY
**CHUCK
PALAHNIUK**

AMERICA'S BEST
LATE-NIGHT BARS

20^Q
BRYAN CRANSTON





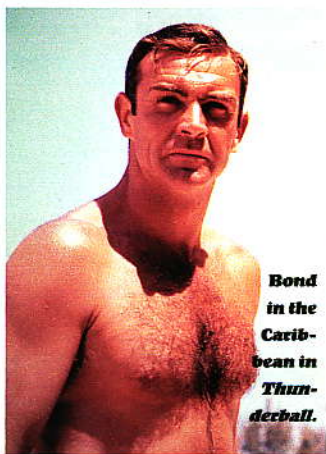
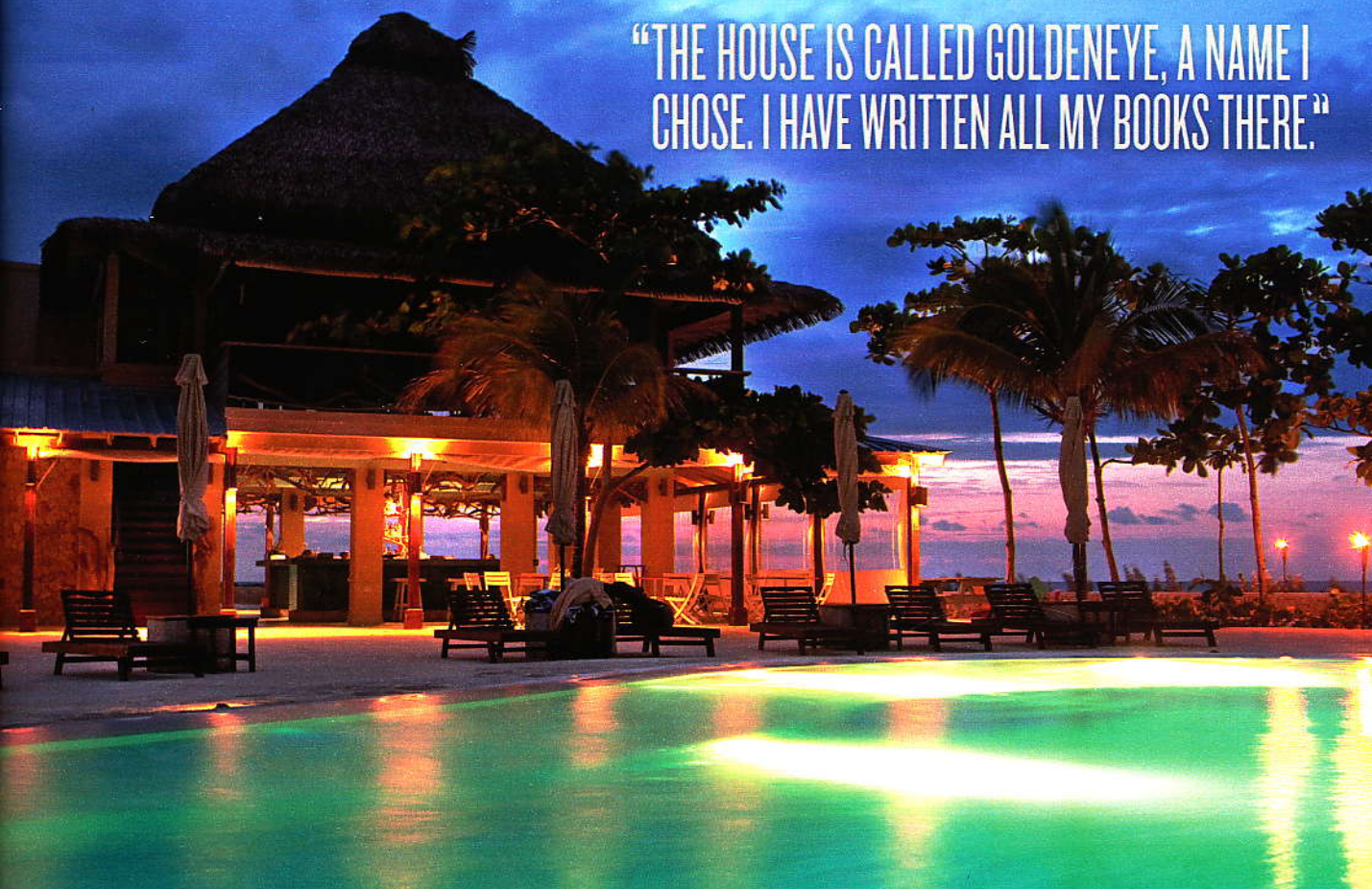
GOLDENEYE

A sojourn at Ian Fleming's Jamaican beach estate—now a refurbished luxury hotel—where James Bond was born

My job with Naval Intelligence got me right into the inside of everything," the British novelist Ian Fleming once said about his role as an intelligence operative during World War II. "I couldn't possibly have had a more exciting or interesting war." Around 1942 Fleming was assigned to Jamaica to gather intelligence on Nazi U-boat activity in the Caribbean. He fell in love with the place. After VE-day, he bought a plot on the beach in St. Mary, Jamaica, built a home and named the estate GoldenEye. It was here that the writer invented the

character James Bond, penning all 12 of the 007 novels in his private tropical paradise. After Fleming's death at 56 in 1964, Chris Blackwell—the British founder of Island Records and one of the most important music producers ever (he's credited with discovering U2, among others)—purchased GoldenEye and turned it into the GoldenEye Hotel & Resort. Now Blackwell has relaunched the place with a top-to-bottom refurbish. While it's elegant and fitted with all the modern amenities, it retains its DNA—that sultry island ambience that Fleming discovered when he first arrived in Jamaica. Travel with us there now, through the eyes of GoldenEye's (and 007's) founder.

“THE HOUSE IS CALLED GOLDENEYE, A NAME I CHOSE. I HAVE WRITTEN ALL MY BOOKS THERE.”



Bond in the Caribbean in Thunderball.

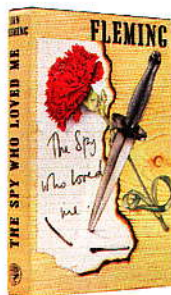
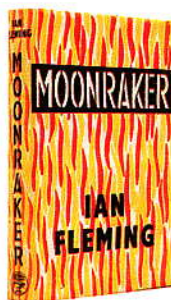
Fate played a major role in Ian Fleming's life. During the terrifying first days of World War II, British Naval Intelligence was in need of a young man who spoke Russian, French and German for covert operations. Fleming fit the bill and ended up almost randomly at a lunch with the director of Naval Intelligence. Soon after, he was shipped off to Jamaica as an intelligence agent. Fleming on his discovery of this tropical wonderland: "I stayed in the good old Myrtle Bank Hotel, and it poured every day—and I loved every minute of it. I'd never been in the tropics before, and I thought they were wonderful. When I went back in 1946 I borrowed a car from a man called Sir William Stevenson, who was chief of our intelligence service in the States during

the war. I went round and finally I found this disused donkeys' racecourse by the sea. I bought the racecourse, and I built on it a square of a house which I had designed while I was working in the Admiralty during the last two or three years of the war. It's by a little banana port called Oracabessa, and the house is called GoldenEye, a name I chose. I have written all my books there."

From the late 1940s to his death in 1964, Fleming spent his winters in the tropics, alternatively preferring London and his country flat outside the city. Starting in the 1950s, millions of people obsessively read his novels, and his fame blossomed alongside that of his hero, 007. All the while, he worked (not so hard) at perfecting the good life. The author on his daily routine at GoldenEye: "I get up with the birds, which is about half past seven, because they wake one up, and then I go and bathe in the ocean



Top: GoldenEye's Bizot Bar, on the beach. The GoldenEye Hotel & Resort is a collection of private villas set in their own gardens. Right: Ian Fleming gazing out a window, circa 1962. His desk—on which the Bond novels were scribed—still sits in the Fleming Villa, along with his personal belongings.



before breakfast. We don't have to wear a swimsuit there, because it's so private: My wife and I bathe and swim a hundred yards or so and come back and have a marvelous proper breakfast with some splendid scrambled eggs made by my housekeeper. Then I sit out in the garden to get a sunburn until about 10. Only then do I set to work. I sit in my bedroom and type about 1,500 words straightaway, without looking back on what I wrote the day before. I have more or less thought out what I'm going to write. Then, about a quarter past 12, I chuck that and go down, with a snorkel and a spear, around the reefs, looking for lobsters or whatever there may be, sometimes find them, sometimes don't, and then I come back. I have a couple of pink gins, and we have a very good lunch, ordinary Jamaican food. I have a siesta, from about half past two until four."

After siesta, Fleming would write some more, sending 007 into the most romantic calamities. Then Fleming would focus his attention on the Caribbean sunset: "The dusk comes very suddenly in Jamaica: At six o'clock it suddenly gets very dark. I have a couple of powerful drinks, then dinner, occasionally a game of Scrabble with my wife—at which she thinks she is very much better than I am, but I know I'm the best—and straight off to bed and into a deep sleep."

Where did the name GoldenEye come from? Fleming explains: "I had happened



Top left: GoldenEye's reception area. Above: The bedroom in the Fleming Villa, the writer's original home. The villa has three bedrooms, two guest cottages, a private pool, lush gardens and a private beach cove with barbecue and shower. Rent the place for your weeklong bash for \$4,400 a night at goldeneye.com. Top: First editions of 007 novels.



to be reading *Reflections in a Golden Eye* by Carson McCullers, and I'd been involved in an operation called Goldeneye during the war, the defense of Gibraltar. The alternative choice was Shamelady, which is the Jamaican name for the sensitive plant, the one which curls up when the leaves are touched. The whole 30 acres were covered with the plant."

Fleming always claimed that Bond was not his alter ego, though he did imbue his character with desires of his own. They both, for example, smoked gold-ringed cigarettes of Balkan and Turkish tobacco mixed by Morland's of Grosvenor Street, and they both had a passion for Bentley automobiles. So who was Bond? Fleming: "He's got his vices and very few perceptible virtues except patriotism and courage, which are probably not virtues anyway. I didn't *intend* for him to be a particularly likable person. He's a cipher, a blunt instrument in the hands of government. Bond is a highly romanticized version of *anybody*. He's a sort of amalgam of romantic tough guys, dressed up in 20th century clothes, using 20th century language."

Fleming died of a heart attack at the age of 56. By then his books had sold more than 18 million copies, and the first two Bond movies—*Dr. No* and *From Russia With Love*—had spread the gospel of 007. Here Fleming looks back on life, as only he could: "I have always smoked and drunk and loved too much. In fact I have lived not too long but too much. One day the Iron Crab will get me. Then I shall have died of living too much."



Top left and above: The GoldenEye resort's expanded 52 acres feature secluded sandy coves where Fleming hunted for his lunches with a spear and where today hotel guests can explore. Left: Ursula Andress as Honey Ryder in *Dr. No*, based on the sixth Bond book.



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