

Weird Aliases Are Dr. King Clues

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WASHINGTON — The assassination of Martin Luther King has spawned a weird literary mystery — with undertones of murder, conspiracy and even suicide.

At the heart of it are two aliases, Eric Starvo Galt and Harvey Lowmyer, used by James Ray, 40, sought by the FBI in the slaying of Dr. King in Memphis April 4.

Eric Starvo Galt is the most intriguing, for "Galt" is the name of a character in Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged," a 1957 novel that has nearly become a bible for some ultra-rightists.

Miss Rand's Galt saw politicians, pseudo-intellectuals, bureaucrats and many others as destroyers of America who must be eliminated. Galt is portrayed as a brilliant man, a leader of "loners," although a loner and individualist himself.

"Starvo" sounds suspiciously like "Stavro" in Ernst Stavro Blofeld, the super-fiend of Ian Fleming's "On Her Majesty's Secret Service," "Thunderball" and "You Only Live Twice."

In "On Her Majesty's Secret Service," Blofeld, in a hideout in the Swiss Alps, devises a diabolical plot for mass murder.

In "You Only Live Twice," Blofeld constructs a garden of evil in which poisonous snakes and plants are provided for suicides.

"Eric" is the code name of "Matt Helm," Donald Hamilton's super-tough secret agent.

"A quiet mission of assassination is no sweat for Matt Helm," advises the cover of

"The Ambushers," which goes on to tell how the secret agent is a man "who has to play God."

Harvey Lowmyer, of course, raises the ghost of Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin

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of President Kennedy in 1963. The name "Harvey Lowmyer" was believed to have been used by Ray sometime after Kennedy was shot to death — like King, with a rifle.

Many of the other aliases are common names starting with James-like names a man named "James Ray" might toss off at a woman's notice.

But the Galt and Lowmyer names have a strange quality that has given the FBI sleuths cause to pause.

TWISTED MIND

Every fact of the literary mystery is being considered by the FBI, but a spokesman was as bewildered as newsmen over what twisted mind would have developed names so loaded with death and with the bizarre.

"What sort of guy could have thought them up?" the FBI was asked.

"We'll know when we catch him," said the spokesman.

Did James Ray Earl find the names in books he perused with his tenth-grade education? Did he simply pluck them from quick glimpses on newsstands of the paperback contents?

Are the names really some incredibly long-shot coincidence with no literary meaning whatsoever?

Or, finally, did some evil genius as corruptly sick as Ernst Stavro Blofeld, Bond's enemy, dream it up for some hired killer as a lethal literary mask?