



The Other Side of Midnight

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Paris...Washington...a peaceful Midwestern campus...a fabulous villa in Greece...all part of a terrifying web of intrigue and treachery as a ruthless trio of human beings - an incredibly beautiful film star, a legendary Greek tycoon, a womanizing international adventurer- use an innocent American girl as a bewildered, horror-stricken pawn in a desperate game of vengeance and betrayal, love and lust, life and death...

The Other Side of Midnight Details

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Author : Sidney Sheldon

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From Reader Review The Other Side of Midnight for online ebook

Jeremy Bates says

I think I found this book via my mother. When I was in university, whenever I went home to visit, I'd return with a big bag of books my mom had bought and read.

One night I grabbed this from the bookshelf, not knowing what to expect. I think I had been putting it off for a while because it had a cover from the seventies and looked like pseudo romance.

Anyway, I read it in one or two sittings! I'd never read an author as breezy (and I say this is a very good way), as Sheldon. His writing is so clean and simplistic, I don't understand why more authors don't imitate his style.

Actually, I should modify that by saying Dan Brown--da Vinci man himself--got his writing bug after reading a Sheldon book--The Doomsday Conspiracy, I believe. He said he read it, thought it was great, and thought he could do better. Well, maybe he did with the da Vinci Code (commercially speaking). But Dan, brother, let's keep things real: you've written for or five books. Sheldon was an Academy Award-winning writer. His TV works spanned a 20-year period during which he created The Patty Duke Show (1963–66), I Dream of Jeannie (1965–70) and Hart to Hart (1979–84). Only at fifty--that's right, the big five-oh--he began writing novels. He wrote about fifteen of them, becoming the sixth best selling writer of all time, before passing away a couple years ago.

That above paragraph in itself should be enough to get you to read this work if you've never picked up a Sheldon book before.

One interesting fact I read somewhere about him: he never sat down at a typewriter to write but instead dictated to his secretary. At the end of the process, he would then cut away as much as eighty percent of the novel. No fat--one of the reasons his books are so lean and tough to put down.

Here's the blurb: An innocent American girl becomes a bewildered pawn in a game of vengeance and betrayal.

LOL...Even that is bare bones!

Check him out if you haven't. If you have, read this one (it was my first and favorite). If you have read this one, there's a sequel to it he wrote seventeen years later in 1990 called Memories of Midnight.

Oh--and there was a film made about it too. It was directed by Charles Jarrott and the cast included a young Susan Sarandon. Those crazy Japanese (yes I can say that; I lived there for several years!) turned it into a radio drama. Didn't that stuff die with Orson Wells??

Oyasuminasai!!

Connie N. says

I read this book when it first came out (in the 70's) and remember it as being amazing, but I had forgotten the details. This time when I picked it up it was with a sense of anticipation, and I was not disappointed. Sheldon writes so well, compelling the reader to hurry from page to page to find out what will happen. The characters are well-rounded and exciting, not necessarily likeable but always forceful and interesting. The story could be considered commonplace--romance and murder--but instead it is fascinating and has a surprise twist that really puts it over the top. Excellent read.

Danielle says

Read when I was really, really young. Thought it was great then. Not sure how I'd feel about it now...

Upn Earnestaster says

Though Sidney Sheldon's "Stranger in the Mirror" affects me more strongly than any of the other books in his magnificent canon I would introduce "The Other Side of Midnight" as a flagship example to explain why Sidney Sheldon was one of the great story-tellers of the twentieth century. There are four protagonists with diverse backgrounds, and Sheldon puts them in his crucible - what emerges is a spectacularly textured epic that lifts and plunges us through the highs and lows of life.

Sheldon said in his autobiography that of all the artforms he was involved in -plays, movies,TV serials- he loved writing novels the best as he could do anything he wanted in them. In O.S.M ,we are thrust into the center of a thrillingly constructed courtroom drama which rivets international attention, Marseille in France pitches in with the smell of fish and scheming townfolk, we become voyeurs in the life of a young woman whose fantastic beauty is matched by her mental strength, soar into the skies where WWII planes zoom in a dance of death, peer into the colossal mind of a business tycoon who will not admit defeat, breeze past the glamour and riches of the super-wealthy and into a charmingly presented tour of the cities and countryside of Greece that is beautifully woven into the storyline. Sheldon can do anything, go anywhere and we are the beneficiaries of his largesse.

Noelle Page is an exquisitely beautiful young woman from Marseilles who is repeatedly hurt to the point of transforming her driven character. Though not born into royalty,she is inexorable in ultimately making herself a young empress by dint of own achievement. Severe trauma in her early life darkens her soul and cripples her kindness, and she coldly uses important men to advance her acting and modelling career while ascending to the ultimate international pedestal . Her alchemical transformation in a hotel room in Vienne, the teasing but superb psychodynamics between her and another man in Amsterdam,and sledgehammer verdicts in Greece are some of her saga's highlights .Her story also hints at that crazy thing called true romantic love.

Larry Douglas is an elite American pilot whose handsomeness and charm are as great as his flaws.He romances countless women before before marriage. But we realize more and more that Larry, for all of his gifts, is a man for whom there is no guarantee of stability even if he is given the greatest love of his life. His constant joy only lies in constant movement and the question looms -what is the price for that?

Catherine is a delightful young lady who hails from an unstable childhood. She is about to enter into a life of guaranteed security with a good prosperous man, when the force of "love" assails her. The narration is excellent in revealing her winsome nature, sparkling sense of humour, and the thankless nature of her fate in this story.

Constantin Demiris is a Greek business titan -amongst the richest men in the world- who rises with his supreme mind to conquer the physical world. Starting off as a stevedore in Piraeus, a stroke of coaxed luck is enough to propel him towards exponentially expanding business acquisitions. We see that he destroys pusillanimity while constantly nurturing his giant will-power. Noelle Page enters into his orbit- they both seem to make a perfect pair in terms of almost every quality that mortals could hope to have, but they lack that crucial something which can make even poor mortals noble. One of the book's great strengths lies in immersing us in the dizzying power that these individuals generate, and in reminding us that we are only limited by the boundaries that we draw in our own minds.

Readers would have noted that there are ample references to 'love' here. But Sheldon is also a specialist in the physical aspect of it, and it is great fun to experience the sexual adventures of Noelle. She thrills and astonishes her carefully chosen partners before meeting her shamelessly audacious equal. When it comes to romps by other characters too, the author has this knack for building excitement and cascade of sensations while surging towards explosive climaxes and spent sated states. But sex is also used in conjunction with the characters' other talents in service of bigger aims- the episode in which Noelle wins over Armand Gautier in their first sustained meeting, is a little masterpiece by itself.

As an exercise in the myriad powers of the author, Sheldon also devises cunningly constructed courtroom victories and intrigues (cf. *Rage of Angels*). For this he creates the remarkable character of Napoleon Chotas - a top criminal lawyer whose cunning behaviour and stealthy strategies are a joy to witness.

Sheldon is well-known for making readers deeply care about his characters. I have sometimes wondered that if Noelle Page had been ushered unscarred into marriage with a boy she liked in the backwaters of Marseille, would she have subsumed her faculties into maintaining small-town family life, or would she still have found ways to break big? On another note, I am also impressed with how secondary characters are given such filling brush-strokes. Only for a few pages at the start of the novel, we are let into life of a Greek inspector who has a matronly wife and sweet young mistress. That ephemeral track is whipped up with such skill and investment of interest that it is enough to construct a whole petite novella. Sheldon can create magic from day-to-day life and he does not need magic realism for that.

Sheldon wrote this book early in his fifties, and early in his novel-writing career after the disappointing "Naked Face", and what he achieves here is tantamount to winning the World Cup after stumbling in the leagues. *The Other Side of Midnight* has a satisfying follow-up act too, in the form of Part II- *Memories of Midnight*, but the first book does not need something to fill it out. It stands complete as a sprawling masterwork from which I emerged spent, asking for nothing more. This is entertainment for the Gods.

Luke Devenish says

Being somewhere in the middle of the most recent Man Booker Prize winner at the moment and finding it decidedly un compelling, I needed an antidote stat. And what better than this sordid potboiler, rediscovered on my shelves during a recent book purge? I always expect derision when I tell people of my Sidney Sheldon love, but oddly, it never comes. At least, not to my face. Perhaps this review will break the rule? Sheldon is a

marvelous writer. The lessons to be learned from reading him are long - provided you're looking for a bestselling formula that set the world's pulse racing nearly forty years ago. Punchy, spare and in no way florid, unlike many of his contemporaries, not a page is wasted. The plot is constantly, ingeniously furthered at a driving pace. It's very much of its time, yet it's a time well worth visiting. 'The Other Side of Midnight' is a jet-set sort of novel, making one think of the doomed 70s love affairs of Taylor and Burton, Jackie and Onassis. Glamorous, damaged types flit about the globe in search of thrills, revenge or redemption. The central triangle of Noelle, Larry and Catherine is riveting, especially Noelle's dizzying descent into vengeance-fueled madness. There's one especially shattering, shocking chapter somewhere in middle that I shan't spoil, but needless to say, four decades on, it still packs a wallop. I doff my hat to Mr Sheldon. He was indeed a master of his game.

Sarah Fuller says

Unputdownable. I devoured this book. I found the characters fascinating, the time period fascinating and the end played perfectly into the whole idea of these people playing a big game of chess.

Cherie says

It's a very addictive book with the combination of Dumas, Wilde and Archer. The book is basically about power and its consequences, which is just beautiful.

The writing is all very dark and haunting, with elements of surprises. One would never know certain events would occur until it happened. It leaves the reader asking questions incessantly and of course, the perfect ending.

Tana says

This is one of my favorite books and has been for a long time - I think I have read everything by Sidney Sheldon and loved all of them!!

Ashley Daviau says

I was expecting this to be a lot fluffier than it was, I guess it goes to show you shouldn't always judge a book by its cover! That being said, I very much enjoyed the story nonetheless. I'm a fan of historical fiction and to have it mixed in with a thriller was quite interesting. There were a few unexpected twists that quite surprised me and made me enjoy the story even more. And the ending quite surprised me, I wasn't expecting it to take that turn!

Bookish says

This is the first book I read of this author. It doesn't happen often when I'm in awe with an author's writing skill more than the story and characters he created in a book. Absolutely brilliant and clever writer. The summary of the story may seem simple but do not let it deceive you as it is as complex as it can get. Because the characters have more layers of depth under the surface that you will not be able to write them off simply as good and bad. The author kept me on edge the whole time and tricking me with the turn of events in the story. I look forward to read more of his books.

Luara Modesto says

This book is fantastic! It's the first one i read by Sidney Sheldon and I just loved the way he built the story of the main characters individually, until they crossed and became the same.
The story is super catchy and the characters are fascinating.

Andrei B?dic? says

"Era cople?it? de un profund sentiment de singur?tate, de triste?ea de a se desp?r?i de persoana pe care o iubea cel mai mult, dar, în acela?i timp, era ner?bd?toare ca trenul s? plece, încântat? c? avea s? fie pentru prima oar? liber? s?-?i tr?iasc? via?a."
"Demiris insist? ca Noelle s?-l înso?easc? pretutindeni. În afaceri, nu avea încredere în nimeni, a?a c? era nevoit s? ia singur toate deciziile. Descoperi c? îi era de ajutor s? discute despre afacerile sale cu Noelle."

VaultOfBooks says

By Sidney Sheldon. Grade: A

Sidney Sheldon is one of the most prolific writers of all time. In the literary circles, he has been dubbed “the master of the unexpected”•. From writing novels to screenplays to TV scripts, Sidney Sheldon has done it all. The Other Side of Midnight is the second novel of his career, the first being The Naked Face. The story follows a beautiful French actress whose craving for passion and vengeance takes her from the gutters of Paris to the bedroom of a powerful billionaire; a dynamic Greek tycoon who never forgets an insult, never forgives an injury; and a handsome war hero lured from his wife by another woman. From Paris to Washington, Hollywood to the islands of Greece, The Other Side of Midnight is the story of four star-crossed lives enmeshed in a deadly ritual of passion, intrigue and corruption.

The plot basically revolves around two women: Noelle Page and Catherine Alexander.

Noelle Page, born in a small French town, is a young woman of unparalleled beauty. Her life was a dream, a doting father, a loving family, an awestruck village, until the Nazis invaded their country. Ever since then her life has been going downhill. She was forced into the arms (bed, rather) of the village’s richest man. But she runs away to Paris where she is rescued by an American stranger after getting into trouble. She falls in love with this American war hero, Larry Douglas and is about to marry him when she finds out that that the love

of her life is a Casanova (that is an understatement) and that he had ditched her. It is at this point of time that she swears vengeance against the one man who had ruined her life and left her in shambles.

On the other hand, Catherine Alexander, born in Chicago in the family of a travelling salesman, had a lesser troubled life. As soon as she entered into college, a fear began to plague her which would shape the course of her life. Once graduated (and still fearing the same thing), she entered into a job in Washington D.C. where she found her first romance (who turned out to be her lifelong friend). After quite some time, she bumped into an arrogant, pestering, annoying man called Larry Douglas (yes, the same one). They both fall in love and get married.

Meanwhile, Noelle Page's vengeance leads her to a French director, whose association helps her become an actress. From the bylanes of France, she had now come into the spotlight, into the eyes of every single person in France and all over the world. But when she learns about the new developments in Larry Douglas' life, she renews her efforts and hence, lands into (yes, the bed) of Constantin Demiris, the ruthless yet benevolent Greek tycoon who had outmanoeuvred every enemy who had at any point of his life, insulted him. (During this period, it is Catherine who is suffering as Larry is caught up in the Second World War.) Because of the deliberate circumstances created by Noelle, Larry ends up working for Demiris and both Catherine and Larry move to Greece. As planned by Noelle, this is the last nail in the coffin of Larry Douglas as he has now walked into her clutches. What happens at the end of Noelle's vengeful journey is how the plot ends.

Had there been a moral of the story, it would have been "hell hath no fury like a woman scorned"*. The sheer monstrosity of the hatred that Noelle holds for Larry in her heart is what drives her to the lengths across the world and Catherine, probably the only innocent figure in the novel, is caught up in this. Sidney Sheldon, in *The Other Side of Midnight*, gives a glimpse of the dark side of a woman's heart and desires. The novel is really fast paced and the best part is how the timeline is put to use (believe it or not, the Second World War plays a very important role in the novel).

The writing is very gripping and keeps the reader on the edge of the seat. Another very good example of how seemingly small errors in judgement can have extreme consequences. A must-read for everyone who is interested in fiction.

Originally reviewed at www.vaultofbooks.com

Salymar says

A really intriguing book from the start -as always by Sidney Sheldon. However, this time Sheldon has negated the story in the middle to the end, and it made a disappointing point of view.

Essentially, **The Other Side of Midnight** occurs before, during, and after World War II, but this is not a war novel. The novel deals with a love 'quadrangle'. It started with a beautiful French woman, Noelle Page. She was sold into the fashion business by her father, Mr. Jacques Page. Mr Page advises his daughter that she has all the beauty a woman will ever need. It's her only weapon of survival. *Actually, I was surprised by her father's advice particularly because of the last sentence Mr Page uttered: 'Let the hand under your dress wear gold.'* Noelle Page was shocked as well by this advice. Not long afterward, Noelle surrenders her virtue (virtue of not following his father's advice and be a good girl) to a greedy dressmaker Lanchon. Noelle fell very in love with Lanchon. And now Lanchon uses Noelle to fulfill his every desire.

There's only one thing I love in this story; the characters. Sheldon has created four (4) unforgettable people who live with passion and romance, betrayal, hate and revenge against the midst of World War II specifically in three (3) countries: France, United States and Greece.

THREE (3) STARS! :)

Pang says

This story is driven by *Love, Lust, Hatred* and *Revenge* between 4 characters: **Noelle**, an incredibly beautiful actress who chase to revenge the man she love and hate in every bit of her passion **Larry Douglas**. A tycoon **Demiris** who get into this revenge and **Catherine**, a normal girl who is the pawn in this game of revenge... till her life turns up side down.

This Sheldon's book made me HATE anti-heroine/hero that I've never been before, ugh. The book is told from **Catherine** and **Noelle**'s POV and I hate Noelle *sorry, not sorry* Maybe because I love Cat, that's why I can't stand Noelle and Larry. But **Demiris** oh Demiris, he is The Star of this book! The true hero of this story. *swoon* This super powerful bussiness man might ruthless at time, but he is also good at another time. I LOVE him! He remind me of Roarke from In Death.

This might be my least favorite of all four Sheldon's books I read, but the ending is the best! It's heart-wrenching and made me have tears in the eyes. Applauds for my Demiris. *sigh*

Elizabeta says

What a book! The story, the characters... And the ending! Totally unexpected :D

Sifat's BooK KingdoM says

Unputdownable !

Darlyn says

Heart-gripping but totally wicked. I read this book when I was in high school and loved so very much. But that time it was borrowed and now I got my own personal copy. As this is my second read of the book, I was really glad I feel the same way I felt the first time I read it. Even much better.

It has got to be the most suspenseful book where you do not see the twist until at the very end. It is a brilliant twist! The storyline was utterly amazing and he had such a masterful mind. And the book is totally a masterpiece. There are three element of story; love, revenge and jealousy. It has other elements but these three is the biggest ingredients of contribution in the book.

I never read a character like Constantin. He is a man that never forgives and he hold his grudge like forever. I even feel worried whenever I read his part or side of story. You should read how he gained his wealth, totally manipulative and but brilliant for a scoundrel. Larry is a character that I despise most. He's a heart breaker

and if he kept his promise to Noelle everything would be a happy ending. I felt sorry for Noelle but what she did to win Larry back is such unforgivable and I think Larry and Noelle deserve for what they committed. Whilst they found guilty, and the plead the guilty, well I have never thought what monster Constantin was. It was totally quite unfair and I don't see it coming. What I could say is, he used/involved his power and wealth to make them executed by a firing squad! They deserved the punishment even though it's mean and inhumane and Constantin won in silence. Catherine, Larry's wife on the other hand, lost her memory and nearly died. She is the sorriest character and I felt so angry when it comes to the ending. But, it was a very brilliant read.

Henry Ozogula says

This is a smashing brilliant work, with layers upon layers of fine plots and intrigue. But there is one aspect I just cannot understand. Why couldn't Larry Douglas recognise Noelle Page when he later became her main pilot as it were? Yes, he had had countless women over the years, but surely he would remember a woman depicted as incredibly beautiful with especial features...a woman he had lived with in an hotel for quite some time before he disappeared...a woman who just some years later became a global actress always in the media and the like. Is it really possible that despite the combination of her great beauty allied to her distinctive name and celebrity, Larry would still not recognise her? A woman he had promised to marry...I do not wish to be tedious, but consider it, her startling beauty, her name, their staying together, her becoming a global star still using her real name...Also consider that it was only like after 6 years after they had met that she became world famous. Yet Larry does not have any inkling as to who she is!

In fact the way Ms Page is depicted runs contrary to reality. She is incredibly ruthless and calculating, yet she always comes across to all her lovers over the years as the acme of perfection, a woman all of them can not do without, a sex goddess and domestic servant, and an expert on all subjects to boot. Of course Larry Douglas is the only man this nonpareil woman cares about. "Noelle was quicksilver a nymph, a genie, a dozen beautiful servants catering to his every wish before he even knew what he wanted" Hmm....

Benjamin Thomas says

So I inherited a lot of books from my mom and among them were about 10 Sidney Sheldon novels. I had read a couple of his years ago and while I thought they were pretty good, I wasn't compelled to go out of my way to acquire more of them. So I went into this one with a certain hopefulness but not expecting to be blown out of the water.

But I was...blown out of the water, I mean. Written in the '70s, it takes place during and shortly after WWII. But it's not "about" WWII but rather about three main characters who happen to interact during that time period. This novel is intrigue to the max, featuring numerous sordid affairs, rags to riches storylines, power-grabs, glamour, backstabbing plotlines, etc. Definitely a page-turner and suprisingly (at least to me) risqué for the time it was written. It is the only Sheldon novel I know that has a sequel, *Memories of Midnight* and I am looking forward to that one with relish. Highly recommended.
