

# The Human Condition, Power and Ambition in Sidney Sheldon's Select Works

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## **Abstract:**

**Sidney Sheldon was an American writer who worked on Broadway plays. His novels are famous and have been sold in multiple languages. He was born in Chicago, located in the state of Illinois, in United States of America. He had worked as a novelist, screenwriter and a television producer. His novels come under the genre of crime fiction and thriller. This paper studies his critically acclaimed works.**

**Key Words: Sidney Sheldon, If tomorrow Comes, Master of The Game.**

## **I. Introduction**

Sidney Sheldon was an American writer who worked on Broadway plays. His novels are famous and have been sold in multiple languages. He was born in Chicago, located in the state of Illinois, in United States of America. He had worked as a novelist, screenwriter and a television producer. His novels come under the genre of crime fiction and thriller. In Crime Fiction, criminal acts are investigated either by professional detectives or amateurs. In a thriller, suspense, anticipation and excitement are woven into the works. Sidney Sheldon has written two novel series. The first novel series is titled *The Midnight*, comprising of two novels. The second novel series is titled *Ambitious Women*, and comprises of three novels.

## **II. *If tomorrow Comes***

*If tomorrow Comes* is a crime fiction novel by Sidney Sheldon. In the story, a woman is framed by the Mafia. The Mafia is an organised criminal society. They are known for organised crime, which is the engagement in illegal activity, mostly for profit. Hence, the protagonist, Tracy, decides to take revenge upon them. Later in life, she becomes a con artist. Such people trick others after gaining their confidence and trust. At the beginning of the novel, Tracy is a bank manager living in Philadelphia. Her mother commits suicide after she is scammed by the New Orleans Mafia. Tracy tries to scare the scammer I, Joe Romano with a gun, in order to make him admit to her mother's innocence, but things awry.

Tracy's attorney convinces her that she would get a shorter sentence if she pleaded guilty. However, the judge sentences Tracy to fifteen years in prison, thus making Tracy realise that the judge and attorney were working for the Mafia. They are working for Orsatti, who is Romano's boss. Due to the conviction, her fiancé leaves her and she miscarries her baby. After Tracy saves the life of the warden's daughter, she is given an official pardon. Thus, Tracy is now free, and decides to take revenge for the injustice she had suffered. Towards the end of the novel, she becomes the con woman. The human condition, power and ambition at the main themes of the novel.

## **III. *Master of The Game***

*Master of The Game* is a novel published in 1982. *Master of the Game* is a critically acclaimed novel. It is thriller novel since it inculcates suspicion and anticipation. It deals with the lives of four generations of the Blackwell/MacGregor family. Kate Blackwell is the head of the business Empire, Kruger- Intl. She is celebrating her ninetieth birthday at the beginning of the novel, and reminisces her past. Her father, Jaime McGregor had amassed a fortune in the diamond trade in South Africa in the late nineteenth century. In a

heist, he stole diamonds that were worth millions. He marries Margaret, and they have two children, Jaime Jr. and Kate.

After Jaime Jr. and their mother pass away, Kate goes to business school because she wants to run the company. She is also obsessively in love with David, who is twenty years older than her. She marries him and starts manufacturing weapons for the war, though David is opposed to this idea. David dies in an explosion in one of the company's mines and Kate gives birth to Tony Blackwell. Kate constantly tries to meddle with and control Tony's life, and even goes to the extent of making his French girlfriend spy on him for her. She manipulates him into marrying Marianne Hoffman, in order to obtain the Hoffman Electronics empire. Kate is extremely manipulative and constantly interferes with other people's life choices. She is obsessed with the company and ruins the lives of many in the process. Thus, the human condition, power and ambition are core themes.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Sheldon, Sidney. *If Tomorrow Comes*. HarperCollins, 2012.
2. *Master of the Game*. HarperCollins, 2021.