1. Synopsis

The main character to this book is Dana Evans, an anchorwoman for the press, who was also featured, though not as a main character, in another of Sidney Sheldon's book, The Best Laid Plans. The story starts off with a prologue, a mysterious auction that involves a huge amount of money. Dana Evans had just came back from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is rushing to a meeting with the last member of the Winthrop family, Gary Winthrop.

The story starts to get complicated when, a few hours after the interview with Dana, Gary Wintrop was shot and killed by some thieves who were, supposedly, stealing some paintings. Although most viewed this tragic row of events as accidents, the rest of the Wintrop family were killed in a series of suspicious "accidents" a few months beforehand, Dana was the exception. Taylor and Madeline Wintrop, Gary's parents, perished in a fire that burnt down their house, Paul Winthrop died when his car drove off a cliff, and Julie Wintrop died in a skiing accident. Dana couldn't believe that accidents had wiped out one of the most prominent families in the world. She began to investigate, dwelving deeper and deeper into the family's secrets. Meanwhile, Kemal, the crippled boy (he only has one arm) Dana found in Sarajevo, caused trouble and launched into fights at school, due to the fact that some bullies, mainly a boy named Ricky Underwood, kept insulting Dana.

Dana was called to school a couple of times to manage Kemal. Kemal was finally expelled after he hospitalized his tormentor, Ricky. Jeff Connors, Dana's fiance, is also occupied, looking after Rachel Stevens, his ex-wife, who
was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. Rachel is a model, one of the highest
paid in the world, and was Jeff's wife for 4 years. Due to Dana's investigations,
and him taking care of Rachel, they postponed their wedding to a later date. Dana
couldn't find anything remotely suspicious about the Wintrops family and was on
the verge of giving up when she unexpectedly stumbled upon a case against
Taylor Wintrop, while searching the internet for apartments for her, Jeff and
Kemal.

The case was filed by Joan Sinisi and was later dropped for some
mysterious reason. Dana soon found out that Taylor Wintrop paid a huge
settlement for the case to be dismissed. To Dana's astonishment, Joan refused to
talk about the case, and asked her to leave. When Dana finally persuaded Joan to
tell her, Joan "accidentally" fell down from her balcony and died. Her death was
ruled out as an accident, even though its impossible for her to fall out of her
balcony accidentally, due to a four foot wall preventing it. The maid taking care of
Joan left after the "accident", to visit her family. As she, determined despite the
dangers, followed her leads, Dana befriended Roger Hudson was a former senate
leader and billionaire who had some strange connection to Taylor Wintrop, and
his wife, Pamela Hudson. They helped Dana a lot on her investigation, although
Roger Hudson was very uncomfortable when Dana started talking about Taylor
Wintrops. Dana became friends with the couple when Kemal broke an extremely
expensive vase, she'd been forced to take Kemal with her when he got into major
trouble at school, and the Hudsons' told her not to worry. She also made an enemy
of General Victor Booster, head of the FRA, when she interviewed him. He
screamed himself hoarse and told her to leave before she even got ten words out. Booster's aide, **Jack Stone**, became her friend when he helped her out, by warning her off Booster's abruptness and anger towards the media.

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2. Biography of The Author

Sidney Sheldon was born on February 11th, 1917, in Chicago, Illinois. He attended Northwestern University briefly during the mid – 1930s, but did not
continue to peruse his avenue. He was in U.S Army Air Forces, and was discharged in 1941, at which time he collaborated with Ben Roberts on his first screenplay in 1948 for The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer (1947), then went out to write a list of screenplay which includes Easter Parade (1948), Annie Get Your Gun (1950), and Jumbo (1962). It seems his early success knew no restrictions, as he also won a Tony Award in 1959 for the Broadway Musical “Redhead”.

In 1963 Sheldon began to create, produce and write television series, for which he gain incredible popularity. The Patty Duke Show (1963-1966) and I Dream of Jeannie (1967-1970) which received several Emmy Nominations. The Naked Face (1970) was Sheldon’s first novel, and was awarded the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award for best mystery novel. This began a consistent stream novels, which brought him to the best sellers list an extraordinary number of times and included recently “The Stars Shine Down”(1992) and “Nothing Last Forever”(1994).