Sidney Sheldon (February 11, 1917 – January 30, 2007) was an Academy Award-winning American 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), but it was not until after he turned 50 and began writing best-selling novels such as *Master of the Game* (1982), *The Other Side of Midnight* (1973) and *Rage of Angels* (1980) that he became most famous.

Sheldon was born Sidney Schechtel in Chicago, Illinois. His parents, of Russian Jewish ancestry, were Ascher "Otto" Schechtel (1894–1967), manager of a jewelry store, and Natalie Marcus. At 10, Sidney made his first sale, $5 for a poem. During the Depression, he worked at a variety of jobs, and after graduating from Denver East High School, he attended Northwestern University and contributed short plays to drama groups.

In 1937 Sheldon moved to Hollywood, California, where he reviewed scripts and collaborated on a number of B movies. Sheldon enlisted in the military during World War II as a pilot in the War Training Service, a branch of the Army Air Corps, His unit was disbanded before he saw any action. Returning to civilian life, he moved to New York City where he began writing musicals for the Broadway stage while continuing to write screenplays for both MGM Studios and Paramount Pictures. He earned a reputation as a prolific writer; for example, at one time he had three musicals on Broadway: a rewritten *The Merry Widow*, *Jackpot*, and *Dream with Music*. His success on Broadway brought him back to Hollywood where his first assignment was *The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer*, which earned him the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay of 1947.
When television became the new popular medium, he decided to try his hand in it. "I suppose I needed money," he remembered. "I met Patty Duke one day at lunch. So I produced The Patty Duke Show, and I did something nobody else in TV ever did. For seven years, I wrote almost every single episode of the series."

Sheldon created, produced and wrote I Dream of Jeannie in his co-production capacity with Screen Gems. He wrote all but two dozen scripts in five years, sometimes using three pseudonyms (Mark Rowane, Allan Devon, Christopher Golato) while simultaneously writing scripts for The Patty Duke Show. He also used the same pseudonyms in writing all seventeen episodes of Nancy. He later admitted that he did this because he felt his name was appearing too often in the credits as creator, producer, copyright owner and writer of these series. He also wrote for the series Hart to Hart.

Production for I Dream of Jeannie ended in 1970 after five seasons. It was "During the last year of I Dream of Jeannie, I decided to try a novel," he said in 1982. "Each morning from 9 until noon, I had a secretary at the studio take all calls. I mean every single call. I wrote each morning — or rather, dictated — and then I faced the TV business."

In 1969, Sheldon wrote his first novel, The Naked Face, which earned him a nomination for the Edgar Allan Poe Award from the Mystery Writers of America in the category of Best First Novel. His next novel, The Other Side of Midnight, climbed to #1 on The New York Times Best Seller list as did several ensuing novels, a number of which were also made into motion pictures or TV miniseries. His novels often featured determined women who persevere in a tough world run by hostile men. The novels contained a lot of suspense and devices to keep the reader turning the page:
“I try to write my books so the reader can't put them down,” he explained in a 1982 interview. "I try to construct them so when the reader gets to the end of a chapter, he or she has to read just one more chapter. It's the technique of the old Saturday afternoon serial: leave the guy hanging on the edge of the cliff at the end of the chapter.”

Most of his readers were women. Asked why this was the case he said: "I like to write about women who are talented and capable, but most important, retain their femininity. Women have tremendous power — their femininity, because men can't do without it." Books were Sheldon's favorite medium. "I love writing books," he commented. "Movies are a collaborative medium, and everyone is second-guessing you. When you do a novel you're on your own. It's a freedom that doesn't exist in any other medium."

Sheldon was married for 30 years to Jorja Curtright, a stage and film actress who later became an interior designer. She appeared in a Season One episode of I Dream of Jeannie. She died of a heart attack in 1985.

He married Alexandra Kostoff, a former child actress and an advertising executive of Bulgarian origin, in Las Vegas in 1989. His daughter, Mary Sheldon, became a novelist as well.

He struggled with bipolar disorder for years; he contemplated suicide at 17 (talked out of it by his father, who discovered him), as detailed in his autobiography published in 2005, The Other Side of Me.
Sheldon died on January 30, 2007 from complications arising from pneumonia at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, California. His remains were cremated, the ashes interred in Westwood Village Memorial Park Cemetery.

Sheldon won an Academy Award for Writing Original Screenplay (1947) for *The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer*, a Tony Award (1959) for his musical *Redhead*, and was nominated for an Emmy Award for his work on *I Dream of Jeannie*, an NBC sitcom.

Bibliography

Novels

- *The Naked Face* (1970)
- *The Other Side of Midnight* (1973)
- *A Stranger in the Mirror* (1976)
- *Bloodline* (1977)
- *Rage of Angels* (1980)
- *If Tomorrow Comes* (1985)
- *Memories of Midnight* (1990)
- *The Doomsday Conspiracy* (1991)
- *The Stars Shine Down* (1992)
- *Nothing Lasts Forever* (1994)
• *Tell Me Your Dreams* (1998)
• *The Sky Is Falling* (2001)
• *Sidney Sheldon's Mistress of the Game* by Tilly Bagshawe (2009)
• *Sidney Sheldon's After the Darkness* by Tilly Bagshawe (2010)
• *Sidney Sheldon's The prince of the darkness*

**Autobiography**

• *The Other Side of Me* (2005)

**Broadway Plays**

• *The Merry Widow*
• *Alice in Arms*
• *Redhead*
• *Roman Candle*
• *Gomes (London)*

**Films**

• *The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer*
• *Three Guys Named Mike*
• *Annie Get Your Gun*
• *Dream Wife*
• *You're Never Too Young*
• *Anything Goes*
• *Billy Rose's Jumbo*
SUMMARY OF THE STARS SHINE DOWN

The novel tells the story of Lara Cameron, a successful real estate developer who came from a broken family in Nova Scotia. Lara's mother dies in childbirth and her Scottish father doesn't want her. Early in life, she learns to fend for herself and how to get her own way in a male-dominated world. Even though she encounters many problems, she is able to overcome them all and become one of America's most successful businesswomen.

Lara Cameron is the daughter of a boarding house owner in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. After her father's death, Lara makes a deal with the owner of the boarding house to secure her first building. She takes loan from a bank and builds her own building. Thrilled at her success, she moves to Chicago to start her real estate empire. She moves to Chicago after earning three million dollars. She meets Howard Keller who helps her in every thing she does. She becomes a successful real estate developer by converting an old hotel into an ultra modern luxury hotel. Then she moves to New York and builds Cameron enterprises and also plans to build the highest skyscraper in the world-Cameron Towers.
In her childhood, Lara was a good girl. She wanted to help others. She was kind and
diligent. But in when she was adult, she was very ambitious. And it changed her behavior.
She never thought about others, she only thought about her self. She did everything to get
what she wanted even it against with moral value and destroy others. She did not care about
it. She was also very clever to make others interested in her by using her beauty and use them
to help her. As her relation with Paul Martin who helped her in everything she wanted. Lara
had affair with him even though she knew that Paul had wife but she did not care. She also
reveals her darker side by slapping one worker, harassing tenants by turning their building
into a shelter for homeless people and bedding lawyer Paul Martin, who has Mafia
connections. Her fortune starts dwindling - her ex-secretary, Gertrude Meeks writes a tell-
all book and the law starts poking into the casino that Lara set up with Paul Martin's help.

But in the end of the story, it was told that Lara Cameron never felt happy. She has
everything but she thought that there was something missed in her life. She felt empty. Until
one day, she met with the man, a renowned concert pianist, Philip Adler. She felt in love and
married him. Then, she realized that what she needed it was not wealth but love. She never
felt favor from others since she was a child until she met Philip. She was very happy when
she was with Philip. Wealth could not guarantee the happiness.