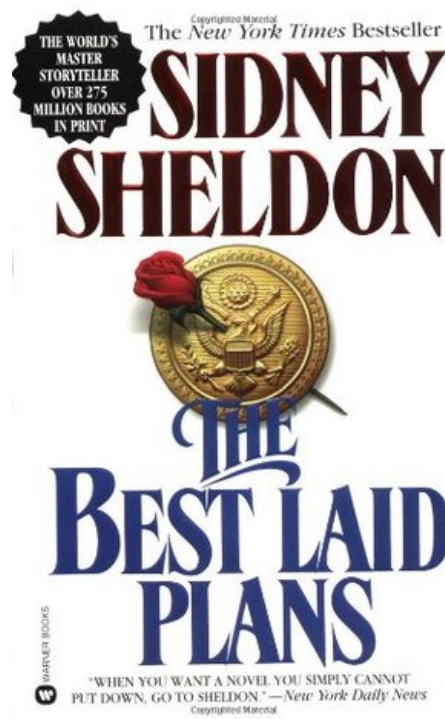




The Best Laid Plans

Sidney Sheldon

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The Best Laid Plans Sidney Sheldon

He wanted power. Oliver Russell is fated to rise to the pinnacle of power, President of the United States. She wanted revenge. Leslie Stewart is his betrayed fiancée. Amassing her own media empire, on her fortieth birthday, she looks back. What went wrong?

The Best Laid Plans Details

Date : Published 1998 by Time Warner (first published January 1st 1997)

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Author : Sidney Sheldon

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From Reader Review The Best Laid Plans for online ebook

Srikari says

Wait, what? 2 stars?

Yes I know, I know. I couldn't believe it myself. I mean I HEART Sydney Sheldon but this book was annoying. I saw the plot twist coming, there was absolutely no action until three fourths of the book and I thought the characters were CREEPY!

but I didn't give up hope. I went on and on, looking for the revenge, for something unexpected but I just grew sadder and tired. At the end I just wanted to stare into nothingness, wait, then I have to read the book again, it had NOTHING! So at the end of the book I felt bad and cheated.

AND that's what made me feel better!

The Writer says

I'm still having Sidney Sheldon marathon, folks and this is the third book I have read in the past three days. Yep, you got that right, I read one book a day, nothing difficult with this one as Mr. Sheldon's works are quite "light and entertaining".

How can I start with "The Best Laid plans"? Before I picked it up this morning, I only remember that I have read it once and I thought it was awesome, but that was me – 15 years ago perhaps and I'm sure that I have changed a lot since then, including the little segment in my brain that produces something called "opinion".

The thing is Sheldon books are always entertaining, I guess it's formulae numero uno if you want to sell your books and he's quite damn good at it, but then the reality hits you hard in the face as there are only few pages left, you begin to realise that you've been cheated and that the author should have devised some sort of "twistier" (is there such word?) plot to make everyone's happy. At least make me happy!

The Best Laid Plans is a story about a woman who was scorned. Yes, you all know the phrase: Hell hath no fury like a woman's scorned. So is this one. Leslie Stewart – a bright (but nobody) girl suddenly found herself dumped by the Kentucky Governor-to-be Oliver Russell few days before the wedding ceremonies and the fiancée didn't even bother to tell her that he went off to marry his ex-girlfriend in Paris in exchange for more power. Of course Stewart was pissed. I would be too if I was her and since then she cleverly developed a plan how to acquire more power than Russell and make him wish as if he was never born before.

As Russell's goddess of luck brought him all the way to the highest political seat in the country – The President of the United States – Stewart's own ambition led her to be the owner of several newspaper and television companies across the globe, including the influential The Washington Tribune, and you could guess the rest: the war was getting ugly and uglier. It's always ugly in politics, they say.

The book is alright, it doesn't suck but doesn't impress either. What's the best laid plans anyway? There's a possibility that I'm too thick to see it through the storyline but there's a huge chance that the author couldn't

name his works properly (I have seen this before with the previous two I have reviewed: Are you Afraid of the Dark? and Windmills of the Gods). The titles always leave me scratching my head.

Anyway. Like I have previously said: Good for rainy days, when you can't do a thing outside and the TV programmes aren't worth watching at.

Ebehi says

I'm a Sheldon fan. His books usually make quick reading and are entertaining. He is not one for deep, haunting tales but it snags me everytime the way he can spin almost any story and make me stay up reading it. However, for this one, he seems to have lost quite a bit of his spinning abilities.

There was the usual twist where things don't end up how you would expect. I was mildly surprised with this one but the problem was, it wasn't an "Ah! I've figured it out" moment. I was more like, "are you seriously expecting me to accept this?" It felt like he had cheated me with this story.

He spent a lot of space giving background information on minor characters and it seemed like he was just filling up space. Then at the end he gives some hastily compiled explanation for a character that was actually very central to the story. It just wasn't acceptable.

Now, for the third missing star. Dana. I was given the impression that Leslie was basically the female protagonist here, and Sheldon continues to give this impression by following her story. Then suddenly, he abandons her personal issues and we start seeing her through strangers' eyes, effectively alienating the us. As a reader I had invested a lot in her lifestory and I hated to be cut off like that. Then as if to pacify the reader, he tries to slip in tidbits about Dana, to substitute one heroine for another. Frankly, it didn't work. Dana was just not as interesting. And he didn't give enough information to make me care. So I was left with two semi-protagonists I didn't care much about. And no other likable character that I really cared about either.

The end just worsened everything. He could at least have devoted a good segment to how Leslie ended up but she was just glossed over.

So why the two stars? One for coming up with a storyline that helped me through one more sleepless night. The other star? Well, as I said before, I am a Sheldon fan.

Vichy says

[Ο κατ' λ'θος δολοφ'νος ε'ναι ο Π'τερ Τ'γκερ, η Λ'σλι δεν τα κατ'φερε να ρ'ξει τον ?λιβερ, η Ντ'να μεταδ'δει ζωνταν' ρεπορτζ που αποκαλ'πτει την αλ'θεια. (hide spoiler)]

Joy H. says

Added 4/25/15. First published in 1997.

Well written. Excellent plot development. Written with amazing clarity, despite the large number of characters and the many shifts in time and place. Easy to read. A page-turner!

The plot concerns the machinations of politicians for power and the role of the media. There's even some romance, such as it is.

Sifat's Book KingdoM says

A wore out political assistant stops just before a decision - yet is compelled to run a sad crusade in transit out. He makes an arrangement with a dried up old Scot, Angus McLintock- - a designing educator who will do anything, anything, to abstain from instructing English to engineers- - to give his name a chance to remain in the race. No compelling reason to crusade, sure to lose, et cetera.

At that point an awesome outrage overwhelms his rival, and sadly, Angus is chosen. He chooses to perceive what great a fair M.P. who couldn't care less about being re-chosen can do in Parliament. The outcomes are silly - and with chess, an air cushion vehicle, and the affection for a decent lady tossed in, this extremely entertaining book has something for everybody.

Prima patriotika says

Bercerita tentang leslie steward yang tertarik dengan oliver russel yang mencalonkan diri jadi gubernur... lalu merencanakan pernikahan. Namun ternyata Oliver Russel justru meninggalkannya untuk menikah dengan anak anggota senat yang bisa membuatnya sukses di kancah politik hingga menduduki Gedung Putih.

Leslie pun sakit hati dan berusaha membalas dendam. Pembalasan dendam dilakukan melalui media massa... Leslie senga menikah dengan pemilik Media massa, dan mengembangkan perusahaan media untuk menjatuhkan Oliver.

Seharusnya sih cerita berkutat di Leslie dan Oliver saja... tapi kenapa juga muncul Dana evans... huuh (serasa kurang penting meski akhirnya dia yang memecahkan kasus pembunuhan-pembunuhan yang terjadi).

Sudah lama gak baca karya sidney sheldon, dan saya teringat kembali kenapa menyukai karya-karyanya... bukunya membuka wawasan intrik politik dan fenomena berkuasanya media massa....

Gaya bahasanya ringan, meski menurut saya terlalu banyak tokoh yang diceritakan... tapi lumayan buat mengingatkan kenapa saya suka dengan novel-novel misteri karya-karya sidney sheldon (meski yang udah dibaca jg gak banyak... hehe)

Leer En el Sur says

Entretenido para pasar el rato, pero tiene libros mucho mejores. Final muy precipitado.

Michael says

Not Sheldon's worst, but certainly not his best. There's a little too much going on here that felt irrelevant. Nonetheless, a page-turning read, ideal for the beach.

Ioanna Xristodoyloy says

ενθουσιαστηκα!αλλο ενα βιβλιο του σελντον ελαβε τελος!αυτη τη φορα αλλαζουμε θεμα και τη σκυταλη θα παρει μια γυναικα που βαζει σκοπο της ζωης της να εκδικηθει τον ανθρωπο που την προδωσε!η απελπισμενη προσπαθεια της να αποκτησει δυναμη και κυρος..το δευτερο μισο του βιβλιου θα το χαρακτηριζα ως αστυνομικο,σελιδα τη σελιδα το παζλ προσπαθει να συμπληρωθει και οι ενοχοι να ξεσκεπαστουν..5 σελιδες μενουν για το τελος και συ δεν εχει ιδεα ουτε τι εχει γινει αλλα και ουτε πως διαολο θα μπορεσει να ξεδιαλυνει ολο αυτο το κουβαρι μεσα σε τοσες λιγε σελιδες!και τοτε μπαμ!η ανατροπες ερχονται απο κει που δεν της περιμενεις αφηνωντας σε αφωνη!ο ανθρωπος αυτος εχει πουλησει πανω απο 300.εκ βιβλια σε ολο τον κοσμο...για μενα ειναι ενας μικρος θεος!!!

Hesamul Haque says

There are millions of actions which take place between rags to riches stories in order to obtain the power and Sydney Sheldon does that beautifully keeping in mind the important aspects of dirty and political games happen in real life. The author always creates an everlasting impression of his female protagonists in the reader's mind.

The book is quite fast-paced nowhere to get bored and if you are on a reading hiatus then pick this book and done with the intriguing adventure of acquiring power within a day.

Sinta Nisfuanna says

Lumayan lama saya berniat ingin membaca karya Sidney Sheldon, bahkan sudah membeli beberapa bukunya. Tapi ternyata baru sekarang saya sempat menekuni salah satu bukunya yang berjudul Rencana Paling Sempurna [Terjemahan dari The Best Laid Plans]. Ceritanya tentang Leslie Steward yang terobsesi menjatuhkan presiden, Oliver Russell, karena sakit hati telah dicampakkan demi kekuasaan. Dengan cemerlang Leslie memilih dunia pers untuk menghancurkan sang presiden. Media koran dan televisi di berbagai wilayah Amerika, hingga ke luar negeri, satu per satu dibelinya. Berhasil? Lumayan, karena pemberitaannya mampu mengguncang pemerintahan Oliver Russel.

Awalnya saya berpikir tokoh utama cerita berada di ‘tangan’ Leslie dan Oliver, ternyata ada sosok Dana Evans, seorang wartawati yang tiba-tiba hadir dan menjadi pembongkar aib bejat tokoh pemerintahan terkemuka. Dan taraaa... Dana menjadi tokoh utama dengan akhir cerita yang membahagiakan. Agak bingung juga sih, tapi tetap menarik. Menariknya terletak pada akhir cerita dendam Leslie, sosok misterius si maniak seks, dan cara Dana mengungkap si pembunuh, benar-benar di luar dugaan, Selain itu, konflik Timur Tengah, intrik politik, dan kondisi perang Bosnia Herzegovina menjadi bagian-bagian yang membuat cerita lebih bervariasi.

Selama ini kalau membaca novel detektif atau misteri, saya selalu berpegang pada prinsip “curigailah orang yang paling tidak dicurigai”. Tapi prinsip itu sukses gagal [??] diterapkan saat membaca buku ini. Hmmmm... Bisa jadi otakku agak lengah, tapi yang pasti SS berhasil menggiring saya untuk mengikuti plot yang dia ciptakan. Sip! Ingin baca buku Sidney Sheldon yang lain.

Tea Jovanovi? says

Srpski prevod nema materijalne i logi?ke greške koje je imao original... :) Šeldon je bio ve? u dubokoj starosti kad je pisao ovaj roman... Istraživanja za knjige mu je radio neki asistent koji se nije baš proslavio... a kako se radnja dešava na našim prostorima, i kako je Šeldon na Balkanu omiljen autor nisam mogla da dopustim da razo?ara svoje verne ?itaoce... :)

Salymar says

Love and betrayal linked in the world of politics.
Written by the master of deceit, Sidney Sheldon <3

Sidney Sheldon's "The Best Laid Plans" intrigues from the very beginning and compels the reader to continue reading until the last page
(Message to the future readers of Sheldon's novels: Forget about peeing! It ain't going to happen until you finish this in just one sit)
OSM SHELDON.

Pooja says

What I like about Sidney Sheldon books is that the female protagonist always (well most of the time) looks back in their life and think about how and what went wrong, that led them to this state of destruction. At least, the books I've read till now, are based on this statement. Isn't that fun to see a character in complete puzzlement and to find yourself perplexed too thinking and asking the questions as them?

What I don't like about Sidney Sheldon books is that when the female protagonist is getting all the joy in the world possible, sometimes more than that, are never into thinking oh what did they do right to have this state of bliss. They always think that they must have a brilliant fate bestowed upon them. They never sit for sometime thinking this is what should I do continuously. They progress in their lives but their morals degrade. They are exposed to the bad bad world and will let bad things happen to themselves.

This is what happened in this book.

I won't say I liked all the female characters in this book, which I usually do, thinking of their bravery and ready to face anything personality.

Keeping in mind which Sidney Sheldon books I've read, I'll say after Rage of Angels, this is the second on my list.

Thank You Archit, for not revealing the story. You never do.

Nadia says

I found the first few pages of this book so interesting that I read it through at once. I thought the theme of the novel was about revenge - "Hell hath no fury than a woman scorned" and all that. But halfway towards the end, the plot got so convoluted it might as well be a soap opera in text form. The heroine turned into the villain of the story and a new heroine was introduced. The evil Senator Davis and President Russell (who's not really evil but just a jerk of the highest order) came out unscathed and never get their comeuppance. Leslie Stewart on the other hand, doesn't get her much deserved revenge and also loses out afterwards.

This book smacks so much of sexism - women get treated like doormats or sex objects or victimized that I should have given it just 1 star. But then, I'm judging the book by the whole story and not just by some of the ideas embedded in it.

Sindhuja Anbazhagan says

The Best Laid Plans by Sidney Sheldon - Wonderful suspense.

I am a big fan for Sidney Sheldon's book. After so many years, I picked up his book with so many expectations. This book dint fail me. Got more thrilled than expected. Guaranteed to keep you turning pages.. He is a master storyteller. The plot centers on two characters : Oliver Russell and Leslie Stewart. Oliver promising to Leslie that he will marry her. But because of Senator Todd Davis's greedy words(marry my daughter and I will make you President), Oliver marrying Jan (Todd's daughter) for political power. Leslie feel betrayed and vows to take revenge.

Such an interesting story and 'cant-put-it-down" type of book.

???? ?????????? says

Sheldon is an well-known international bestseller writer and in this book he just wrote like a cheap newborn writer. He spend writing more than 50 pages on a minor character! when I was reading the last final pages,then I discovered that particular minor character has not a slightest impact on the story. Then why the hell Sheldon filled the pages just for nothing? to make it a fat,big book? who knows!

Besides, I expected the main female protagonist will take her revenge. Here also Sheldon has done a very strange job. At the end of the book,Sheldon make the protagonist to a antagonist. frankly said,I was hurt. I had a sympathy on her. He wrote pages and pages on leslie. And suddenly he gave up on leslie and made an image of her to readers as a tough and badass rich woman.

After finishing the book, I don't find any plans,let alone best plans!

So why the 2 stars?

It's because, After all,It's Sheldon I am talking about. This book literally has a rocket like velocity. You can't drop the book until it's finish. It will hook you from the fast page to the very last page.

Peace Love and Reviews says

Leslie and Stewart, had it good. she was on the top of her game, young, beautiful, intelligent and the number one in public relations field. He was handsome, charismatic and have a lot of potential. They were in love, engaged to be married in a few days until Oliver got a call from his former girlfriend, Senator father. Todd, promised him money and power but he has to marry his daughter. Oliver was sure he would not do it but the Senator's word echoed in his mind and left Leslie to be humiliated. From then on she would not stop until she gets revenge.

I am pretty much set that Sidney Sheldon will not disappoint me. The story was engaging without the character's graphic sexual encounters, nor that much of a violence. The order characters of the story complimented the whole plot. Leslie was the epitome of the saying "Hell hath no fury than a woman scorned". I love her character, her drive to be successful to show Oliver, what he missed out, but she should have stopped right there, but no she have to go all lunatic and print that paper without rechecking the information.

Moral of the story? Stop obsessing and move on, revenge would only make you more miserable. On the other note, I loved the twist, I really did not see that coming because everything really points towards Oliver plus I developed a dislike on him, (just on the first part of the novel) how could anyone not?

I remember the day I had my first ever Sidney Sheldon experience. I was 9 and bored out of my mind, it was holy week in the Philippines, no TV, no radio, no meat and no playing. I was always the most uneventful time of the year. So I decided to raid my siblings' bookshelf. I tossed out History of the Orient, MAD comic books, Yoga, and some smut. After an hour or rummaging I found Bloodlines, read the back cover and started reading. When I finished reading it, I vowed to buy all his books, unfortunately at that time, for some weird reason I could not find any other novels written by him. So now, I'm on a Sidney Sheldon marathon.

Alison says

Another delicious revenge/love/backstabbing story. Leslie's character's ending is so appropriate and I was surprised to find out who was responsible for Chloe's death.
