

*English for Technical Communication (HS1161)*

BOOK REVIEW

The Stars Shine Down

*by*

Sidney Sheldon



Maryam Alia

24MMBoA40

B. Tech I-II

The book, 'The Stars Shine Down' by Sidney Sheldon follows the inspiring story of Lara Cameron as she sets herself up for a stupendous amount of success in a significantly male-dominated field. The name of the celebrated author decorating the cover of the book drew me in initially, and the brief summary behind the book piqued my interest. It was something different from books I've usually been interested in, so this was refreshing.

The story follows Lara maneuvering through the limiting beliefs of her father's hometown in Nova Scotia, to her rise from the various hardships she faced while trying to make a name for herself in the construction and real estate market. She does all this while navigating through the deep-rooted misogyny ingrained in the minds of men in power in the industries she's interested in.

Her consistent passion for putting up buildings, offices, plazas and hotels is seen in the way she dreams. She says, "I dream a dream of bricks and concrete and steel, and make it come true." The book is a display of the protagonist's perseverance and zeal to reach newer heights and her ambition that provokes the reader to think about the gender roles in a new world country like America. It perfectly captured the shock, surprise and back-handed admiration towards Cameron's achievements. Although majorly an ambitious story glittered by the record-breaking achievements of the protagonist, it takes a slight detour into the ups and downs of her romantic extravaganza of a marriage with a world-renowned pianist. She displays an immeasurable amount of strength and willingness to do things never done before, even when things turn difficult. While the author has proven his prowess in delivering a suspenseful plot, the book lacks detail and has quite a predictable storyline.

While the world has progressed in ways unimaginable, women in power still throw off the men of today. Sidney Sheldon really hit the nail on the head with how determined women are taken advantage of in corporate settings, in exchange for things that bestow power on them. He bit the bullet at instances where the book highlights how men can and will do anything to make sure that women don't rise to power. In the modern context, I was affected by the sheer audacity men have and impressed by Lara's willpower at multiple instances. I would definitely recommend this book to people who enjoy fast-paced stories about business, power play and ambition.

