



## Sidetracked

*Brandilyn Collins*

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When you live a lie for so long, it becomes a part of you. Like clothing first rough and scratchy, it eventually wears down, thins out. Sinks into your skin.

Thirty-four-year-old Delanie Miller has fled her dark past and is now settled into a quiet life in small-town Redbud, Kentucky. She has friends, a faux "family" who lives in her house, and a loving boyfriend who may soon ask her to marry him. Her aching dream of a husband and future children are about to come true. But protecting this life of promise means keeping a low profile and guarding the truth of her past from everyone.

The town's peace is shattered when Delanie's friend, Clara, is murdered, and Delanie finds her body. The police chief quickly zeroes in on Billy King, a simple-minded young man whom Delanie knows would never hurt Clara. She can hunt down evidence and speak out publicly against the chief only at great risk of her own exposure. But how can Delanie, who suffered such injustice in her past, keep silent now? She must find a way to uncover the real murderer yet save the life she's created the deceit-ridden life that will forever distance her true self from others and God.

With page-turning intensity, *Sidetracked* hurtles between Delanie's trauma in Redbud and the chaos of her past. Those experiences forced Delanie to reinvent her present but at what cost to her future?

## **Sidetracked Details**

Date : Published March 13th 2015 by Challow Press (first published March 30th 2014)

ISBN : 9780578137063

Author : Brandilyn Collins

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Genre : Christian Fiction, Mystery, Thriller, Christian, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Sidetracked for online ebook

### **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: Sidetracked

Author: Brandilyn Collins

Pages: 301

Year: 2014

Publisher: Challow Press in partnership with Christian Writers Guild Publishing

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book from the author via [www.bookfun.org](http://www.bookfun.org)

Brandilyn Collins does it again! She has mastered the suspense genre and shows her expertise in Sidetracked. With the clever use of flashback, readers get the history and background of Delanie Miller, the main character in the book. She has settled in the small town of Redbud, Kentucky. She longs for a man to love, marry and have a family with and seems to have found that man. She is going home from a good friend's wedding shower, when she discovers a dead body. From this point on, she agonizes over whether to get involved in solving the crime or not. If she becomes known to more than the people of her small town, the chances of her past being exposed increase exponentially. Is she ready to give up the life she has carved out for herself? Will her boyfriend understand her lying about her past? Can she face getting involved with the police again? Can she let an innocent person suffer for a crime he didn't commit?

As the investigation and plot progress, Delanie's past is put before readers as well as her present. Readers relive the frustration, anger, disbelief at the lack of justice and bitterness she has experienced as well as deep depression. Now, forced to face her past instead of burying it deep within puts extreme strain on Delanie's mind and heart. She reaches for the only One who can see her through this seemingly impossible situation. She had turned away from God in bitterness in her past, but her soul eventually cried out for Him. She began praying and trusting Him again and her life slowly improved. Can she continue to trust Him with her life or will she again succumb to bitterness at the injustices she has suffered?

This is another great suspense-filled mystery by Brandilyn Collins. The characters are easy to relate to and their life situations believable. I loved the eccentric people Delanie collected to be the family she missed out on in the past. I didn't give too many details about the story because it would ruin the impact of reading it for yourself. Don't miss this great, attention-keeping novel! I can't wait for the next one!

My rating is 5 stars.

Amazon Link: <http://www.amazon.com/Sidetracked-Jer...>

Note: The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot.com> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

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### **Lori Wasson says**

This book was so good that I finished it in less than a week, which is unusual these days for me. To be in Laura's shoes would have been horrendous!

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## **Holly says**

Again Brandilyn Collins gives readers a great story.

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## **Gayle Adams says**

Put your seatbelt on when you open this book. It is a wild ride from beginning to end. This is a murder suspense and Ms. Collins ties it up very neatly at the end. This book should be on your to read list.

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## **Janet Sketchley says**

When a friend is murdered, Delanie Miller has to find the truth—or an innocent man will go to jail. That's something she absolutely can't allow. Even if it destroys the life she's worked so hard to build.

*Sidetracked* is two stories in one: Delanie's fight to find her friend's killer, and the events that shattered her teen years and brought her to this place, alone. Both plot threads find closure at the end.

I always enjoy Brandilyn Collins' suspense novels, with strong characters and fast-paced plots. I've read enough of them now to know I can trust this author to deliver a crackling tale that's realistic but that won't traumatize me. This one jumped to the top of my reading list when I bought it, and it's a great read.

*Sidetracked* is award-winning author Brandilyn Collins' newest Seatbelt Suspense® novel. Visit the author's website to learn more about Brandilyn Collins and her other books. For more about *Sidetracked*, visit the book's page, where you can read chapter 1.

[Review copy from my personal library. See my full review at <http://janetsketchley.ca/sidetracked-...>]

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## **DeeAnn Christensen says**

### **Great read.**

This really is a page-turner. I enjoyed this book a lot. The story is well written and full of suspense. Quite a twist at the end. I'm grateful that she decided to face her past and move on. She found the courage to give it to God and live with His love and support. Good for Andy for sticking with Laura, after her confession. Loved the ending.

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## **Rick says**

It has been a true pleasure over the last several years to be associated with The Book Fun Network and for the development of the Book Fun Magazine. I always keep an eye open for any new Brandilyn Collins and was excited when this new book came up for adoption in the month of May. I knew that I couldn't pass this

one up, course I also knew that I would be getting any sleep until it was finished.

Finding a dead body was the last thing that Delanie Miller wanted to do, check that, find the her best friend's dead body was the last thing Delanie Miller wanted to do. Thrust into the middle of the investigation because of what she saw that night, Delanie is being forced where she doesn't want to be. Can't the police just take her statement and follow the leads? Why is she being looked at as the bad guy just because she doesn't believe their number 1 suspect is truly guilty. Running concurrently to this story is another story of Laura Denton that seems to be faced with the same dilemma that Delanie sees happening. Laura has been accused of murdering her mother, but it doesn't seem like anything can be done to prove her innocence. Can Delanie keep the investigation on track to ensure the right person is convicted of the crime? Will Laura be sentenced for a murder she claims she didn't commit? Is there a connection between these two girls and their story lines? Find all of the right clues so you can **BUY THIS BOOK!!!**

From the start, this book grabs you with the story of Delanie's eyewitness account of finding her best friend's body just minutes after leaving the bridal shower. And off it goes, never letting you rest for just a moment. The additional story line that is running about Laura Denton and her murder trial, is equally as breath-taking as you get to see her murder trial, sentencing and life behind bars. This is like getting two great stories in one and both of them edge of your seat excitement. These two stories are clearly explained for their connection at the end and it is truly amazing how the author has managed to put these stories together and make them end up so cleverly. The attention to detail and plot twists make this a must read for anybody.

Is this a "guy's book"? This is ANYBODY's book, which makes it even sweeter. The guy's will enjoy the pulse-pounding, heart-throbbing suspense that reaches out from the front pages of this book never relinquishes control of you till the last page. Make sure you have a full day to finish this, because you won't want to put it down till your done.

I received this book from the publisher and the Book Fun Network ([bookfun.org](http://bookfun.org)) in exchange for my honest opinion.

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### **Sharee says**

Sidetracked is the first of Brandilyn Collins' books that I have read and I know now that I have been missing out on a fantastic author! This book is the ultimate page turner, mystery, suspense novel. It has a fast paced storyline that kept me not only engaged but enthralled. I found myself rooting for the good guy/girl and hating the bad ones. Just when I thought I had it all figured out with the "who done it", I got the "nut uh!" moment. Sidetracked is beyond fabulous! WHEW! I could not read fast enough and it only took me two days to read the entire book. It was an amazing ride and one that had my mind reeling! In a story where evil prevails and the justice system fails, I found myself riding the emotional roller coaster right along with characters Delaine Miller and Laura Denton.

In a parallel story of two women caught up in a murder investigation, Delaine Miller in 2013 and Laura Denton in 1995, justice seems to have tunnel vision and ignores truth. Delaine battles within herself whether or not to help Billy, a simple minded man who has been arrested for the murder of Delaine's friend, Clara. But getting involved means exposing herself and the past she has tried desperately to keep hidden. Delaine knows that Billy is innocent and that he didn't commit the crime and she's well aware that the System

doesn't always prevail in justice for the victim. But Delaine only wants to move forward into the life she has always wanted with the man of her dreams. Can she keep quiet and pray justice happens for Clara without her help?

Laura is only 16 years old when her world comes crashing down around her. Being young has advantages but for her, not enough advantages. As she fights to prove her innocence, she watches all that she held dear unravel. Will justice happen for her and will she be able to survive the time it will take to happen?

Sidetracked is definitely on my top 10 list of books. It's a must read suitable for men or women. I would even say it's appropriate for older teens. It was an absolutely delight to read. This is my honest review in exchange for this book from the Book Club Network.

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### **Shirley Conley says**

3 1/2 stars The story is told over two time frames 1995 and 2013-14. The suspense developed is sometimes breathtaking. The only reason for the lower rating is that I believe I knew "who done it" about the middle of the book. Contains murder, wrongly accused prisoner, black mail, and a great love story.

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### **Randy Tramp says**

When you think it can't get any worse, it does.

Called, "Seatbelt Suspense," and for good reason. Buckle up, for twists and turns you'll never see coming.

In the book, the reader goes on a present-to-past journey. That writing style made the story more interesting. I found myself wanting to return to years prior to learning how the main character arrived in the present. Mystery intensified.

I have studied Brandilyn's books on writing in order to better my own craft. The principles she's laid out in her "helps" books are shown in Sidetracked. She's a gifted writer, one that I try to emulate. (I fall very short of that goal.)

Great suspense-filled mystery with relatable characters. A story I'll soon not forget.

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### **Kay Defreese says**

I did not know who the murderer was until the end of the novel. I had to keep reading it until I finished. There are not many books that keep me reading for hours to learn the outcome.

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### **Laura Chambers says**

My goodness, what a ride! I couldn't believe the ending! To think that...well, I'll let you find out for yourself. :)

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### **Rachael says**

**BOOK DESCRIPTION-** When you live a lie for so long, it becomes a part of you. Like clothing first rough and scratchy, it eventually wears down, thins out. Sinks into your skin.

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The town's peace is shattered when Delanie's friend, Clara, is murdered, and Delanie finds her body. The police chief quickly zeroes in on Billy King, a simple-minded young man whom Delanie knows would never hurt Clara. Delanie can hunt down evidence and speak out publicly against the chief—only at great risk of her own exposure. But after suffering such injustice in own her past, how can she keep silent now? Delanie must find a way to uncover Clara's murderer yet save the life she's created for herself—the deceit-ridden life that will forever distance her from others and God.

With page-turning intensity, *Sidetracked* hurtles between Delanie's trauma in Redbud and the chaos of her past. Those experiences forced Delanie to reinvent her present—but at what cost to her future?

**My REVIEW-** WOW! I finished this book in one afternoon. This read grabs ones attention from the very beginning and reading it is like a train going down hill, you can't stop. The read never slows down and just keeps one on the ride. Delanie is a lovable character that for whom I felt much empathy. After all, what choices were really available to her? I was frustrated that she wouldn't tell her friends the truth, but it kept thinking, what does anyone do in such circumstances. Having seen numerous stories quite a few years back about many who were falsely accused and imprisoned due to a crime scene specialist lying about DNA evidence, I know justice isn't always served. This story reminds me that a God writes our life story, and he gives us the grace and faith to make it through each day and year. Wonderful suspense story, highly recommend! Another five star read this year!

#### **AUDIO REVIEW**

*Sidetracked* audio book is a great mystery story. The voice does a good job of building the tension. I haven't listened to an audio book in a long time. This really is a neat way of " reading" a book. The murder mystery is wonderful and definitely full of suspense and emotion. I seem to prefer a man's voice for audio, however. Higher pitched voices are not my forte. So while I enjoyed the story, I did wish that a man had read it. I will say here that I have severe sensitive hearing, but a lower pitched voice is and always has been what I prefer. Don't let that stop you from this wonderful suspenseful story. It's wonderfully written, and the audio version does a good job of building the mystery. This is a not to be missed story!

I was given this book through bookfun.org for my honest opinion which I have given.

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### **Rachelle Ayala says**

This page turner starts with the murder of a young woman right after her bridal shower. Her friend, Delanie, finds the body. Right away, we know Delanie has something to hide. However her sense of justice is even stronger and she does not shirk her duty to tell the truth when an innocent man is arrested for the murder.

The story weaves between present day Delanie and a sixteen year old girl, Laura, who found her mother's body one afternoon after school. I won't give away the connection except that it will keep you wanting to find out more in both storylines, the present day investigation into Clara's murder and the investigation and trial in Laura's mother's murder.

Because I'm a seasoned mystery reader, I very early on identified the real culprit. I realized the author dropped a person who was in the vicinity but purposely did not follow up on that person. I also realized who the real murderer was in the story in the past, because again, there was no examination of motive and the focus was too much on the red herring.

As the story moved along, the past and present collided and all was revealed. The important things is that the protagonist was someone I sympathized with and wanted to follow. I was glad that everything worked out at the end.

Finally, the references to God and Delanie's dependence on him was a bonus. There was no preaching or heavy handed religious message, but God's constant abiding presence was there and carried her even through the worst of times.

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### **Anne says**

Another Brandilyn Collins thriller. Read too late every night since I started it. A major page turner.

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