



## The Beginning of Connie and Isaac

*D.H. Sidebottom*

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Book 3 in The Blue Butterfly Series

My name is Connie Swift. I am thirteen. I am a typical teenager, my life full of boys, make-up and music. I love my sister, Mae, immensely but she can be an embarrassment at times, her quiet and withdrawn personality driving a wedge between us. You wouldn't think we are twins, we are totally different people. She's artistic and gentle and I'm creative and crude but nature gave us a link that would never be broken. Life is good. My family loves me and we aren't short of money. We have homes in four different countries, three sports cars lined up on the driveway and cash stashed in numerous accounts and hidden places. My father is a cop and my mother is just a secretary for the local council. They owe no one.

Yet, on the night of my fourteenth birthday my own debt is due. The debt I promised him to save Mae's life. But it isn't money I owe. It's me.

However, I am ready. My things are packed and await by the side of the door. My tracks have been covered. My soul is primed and as the door opens and he stands looking at me, his stare as evasive as his chilling smile, I take one last look at my beautiful sister then slip my hand into his and softly shut the door behind me.

Over the next ten years I am trained to become exactly what he wants me to be.

A soldier for the Phantoms.

An assassin with no conscience.

A shadow of the girl I once was.

And one of many women that feeds his sick and twisted sexual desires.

\*\*\*WARNING\*\*\* This book contains disturbing scenes of torture, sexual and physical violence and humiliation.

## The Beginning of Connie and Isaac Details

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### **Vivienne says**

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### **Jennifer Finn says**

This is the third book in the Blue Butterfly series. I have to say that I really didn't like Connie at all when I was reading The Salvation of Daniel. After reading this wonderful book my feelings changed & my heart broke for what Connie had to suffer through. She was such a strong, brave selfless woman who just wanted to protect her sister at any cost. I absolutely loved Isaac, he was such an amazing man who I thought I was gonna hate but I was wrong. This book starts with Isaac who at 19 is already one of the best assassins the Phantoms has waiting outside Mae & Connie's house because he was ordered to kill both of them. When he meets Connie he is intrigued by her & after her begging him to spare Mae's life he comes up with an alternate plan, Connie will join the Phantoms when she turns 15. Connie is willing to agree to anything to save Mae not realizing that she has sold her soul to the devil, Fredric, Isaac's psycho father & the leader/master of the Phantoms. The rest is her heartbreak journey through initiation & training to become one of the best Phantoms. She suffers a lot of loses but also gains the love & trust of Isaac & several friendships with other Phantom members. I highly recommend this wonderful series although be warned it may result in some very ugly crying.

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### **Di Covey says**

Sidebottom can twist your soul.

Full review coming.

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### **Michael hostetter says**

### **Another Awesome Book**

As with. All of her books this one was intense with great characters and storyline. Recommend the entire series to fans.

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## **Romance Readers Retreat says**

How do you write a review for a book which has left you utterly speechless? This is the dilemma I find myself in.

A book with such brutality but also a glimmer, a flutter, of hope like the wings of a blue butterfly taking flight in your stomach.

This is the eagerly awaited third book in D H Sidebottom's Blue Butterfly series. A series that rips your heart apart and slowly pieces it back together but mixed in with your repaired heart will be devastation, hope, anguish and love.

If you haven't already, I urge you to read book #1&2 first but prepare yourself! You will be changed, affected, after reading them.

The young Connie is subjected to the most brutal training of the Phantoms. She is both loved and despised and through her sheer determination to save the life of the one person she loves, she is hardened into the Phantom's most prized assassin.

This book is beautifully written. It draws you in and you become meshed with the characters and all they experience. You feel their joy, their pain, their struggles, in a way few books are able to truly suck you in.

I'm sure I've said this before, about a D H Sidebottom book, but I don't know how she manages to outdo herself time and time again - yet she does. She takes things to a new level, always challenging your thinking and daring you to invest further than before. This book is once again a masterpiece. 5 devastating stars, bravo!

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## **Mar says**

### **Amazing**

My only complaint is that it ended!!!!!! Ok lied have another complaint, it wasn't long enough!!!! Ok in all seriousness

It's dark but not as dark as it could have been!

But still dark! So if you don't like when you're pushed out of your comfort zone or when a book makes you sweat while your hearts pounding then you might want to skip this one! I for one I'm glad I didn't because I Loved it!!!! I loved all 3 books!!!

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## **Laura's Book Addiction says**

The best book in the series so far. I can't wait for The Temptation Of Annie!!!

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## **Kyra says**

I wasn't sure how I'd feel about this because I didn't love Connie when we met her before. Hearing her story, though, made me see her in a whole different way. Almost from the start, I thought she was great, and Isaac has just become one of my new favourite males because, while he could be cruel at times, he took care of Connie so well. He is - for me - what an Alpha should be.

The story itself is mindblowing. I can't really describe it any other way. Just read the book - it's worth every second.

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## **Victoria says**

I am floored, absolutely floored by the beauty in this book. Although the beauty is hidden between layers of glorious dark and twisted words and an amazing story, it's there. I don't know why but every time I finish a book of Dawn's in this series I am astounded by how completely taken I am with Dawn's storytelling and her very unique way with words and by now I shouldn't be. I quite literally devoured this book and I can not wait for what's next!

The story of Connie and Isaac is intense, fast paced and absolutely breathtaking! I enjoyed every minute of being immersed in their world and learning how they come to be and what made them the formidable force they become. Their story is no fairytale by traditional standards but it is their own take on it with many twists and turns along the way. They overcome so much and take each beating as it comes.

I fell in love with Connie and her amazing strength. She has so many qualities that make her a stand out character, a perfect lead female and she will have many more than me falling in love with her. Isaac, I struggle to find the right the right words to describe him... He's a unique and powerful character, he's a force to be reckoned with and boy does he know how to get the females pulse racing. He is definitely one that will rank high on women's BFF lists in the near future and if not I want to know why!

Like the intricate layers in this book, it is filled with amazing characters that I could spend all day describing however it would be easier for everyone to buy the book and explore it for yourselves. You won't be disappointed by this story or any in Dawn's epic series, this is one of my all favourite series and I'm glad I can share my love of it with anyone who reads this review and feels inspired to read it!

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## **Sue Ann says**

Something about the way D. H. Sidebottom writes draws me in and doesn't let go until I have finished her books. Dark and ugly but somehow beautiful and emotional. I couldn't put this book down. I have loved every book in this series and can't wait for more.

Merged review:

### **Couldn't Put It Down...**

Something about the way D. H. Sidebottom writes draws me in and doesn't let go until I have finished her

books. Dark and ugly but somehow beautiful and emotional. I couldn't put this book down. I have loved every book in this series and can't wait for more.

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### **NC Reader says**

Connie is a bad ass.

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### **Charlie ☆ WLTB Blog ☆ says**

WOW..... D H Sidebottom has done it again.

If I am honest I didn't really take to Connie in Daniels book, I didn't like her I think it was because No one to me could replace Mae, for me and I think that was why I didn't like her....

But having read The Beginning of Connie and Isaac, well I think I might just have a girl crush on her she is such a fighter such a strong Character, she was just amazing and she never once did anything for herself she battled to stay alive for Mae her sister which melted my heart even when she wanted to give up and die, she just kept telling herself it was all to keep Mae safe.

I have no words apart from she totally Amazed me in this book and the love she had for her Sister.

She goes through Hell in this book and survives

Isaac I wasn't sure of him at first but now of course I love him he seen something in Connie when she was a young girl and he knew he couldn't kill her when he was ordered too so he broke the rules and instead she had to go with him to became a phantom

I loved most of the Characters in this book Mouse, Bullet, Rogue, were my Favs apart from Isaac and Connie.

Annie of sweet Annie I love that kid and I really can't wait for her story to be told having such great parents (Mae and Daniel) then of course Connie and Isaac raising her she is bound to be such a Beautiful strong women she will turn into.

As with all the other books there is dark parts in this book and another roller coaster of a ride and Every time they said Mae name it brought tears to my eyes if you loved the first 2 books in The Blue Butterfly

Series you really will not wont to miss this one.

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## **Lindsey Melia says**

OMG, what the hell does DH be doing to me when she writes these books!!?? Was she not hugged as a child!!?? I don't know what, but I fleted it!!!! Her dark reads are my number one. Her books tear me apart and put me together all in one. Seen how Connie and Isaac met very nearly broke me. What Connie goes through is horrific, but the two of them together is an emotional force to be reckoned with.

Seen them get Annie, oh God. My heart skipped a few beats. They were amazing parents to her. That is one book I am living for.

DH Sidebottom I bow down to you <3

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## **Red Cheeks Reads says**

DH Sidebottom! How do you do this to me? How do you make me love the nastiest and most horrible of people? How do you make me sympathize with them, love them, lust after them? It is quite disturbing. You are simply the queen of the book boyfriend anti-hero. Isaac is no different. Goodness, I love this story as much as Mae's and god knows I was not expecting that because that book was amazing.

The first two books in this series are about Mae and Daniel and this book is about Mae's sister, Connie and her other half Isaac. I definitely recommend reading the first two books in this series because you meet Connie and Isaac in Daniel's book but that is them in the present. This book takes you back to their beginnings so that you can understand them better. Whew, this journey was hard and full of strife, pain, and grief.

***“The Pain inside me will forever be irreparable, Shadow.”***

This book gives you the story of how Connie became a Phantom and how she fell in love with Isaac, who honestly I did not much love in the previous books but man, I fell in love with him in this one. He is everything good and bad rolled up into one person. He is Connie's savior and tormentor.

***“You’re mine, Shadow. And not even death will take you from me.”***

Like most DH Sidebottom books, The Beginning of Connie and Isaac is emotional, dark, raw, and sexy as all get out. It brings all the feels with a good does of WHAT THE HELL? That is why I adore her books. Fantastic and eloquent writing and they are never quite what I expect.

***‘She was our decimation, our salvation and our beginning.’***

~Amie

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## **Mazmum says**

Book Review - The Beginning of Connie & Isaac - 5 timing really matters and this is perfect stars

Speaking to Dawn about this book before reading it, she confessed she was very worried. Coming off the back of a series that people love, she worried this book would live up to people's expectations. I could see her concern. In fact, me telling her that Mae is one of my top 5 all time favourite books didn't exactly soothe her nerves. Still if there is one thing i've learnt about Dawn and her books, they rarely disappoint. Connie & Isaac is another cracker.

This is book 3 of the Blue Butterfly series and although they don't follow on (this actually goes back in time), I would still recommend reading them in order. Plus everyone has to read Mae as far as I'm concerned.

I'm going to take for granted if you've got this far that you've read the first two books and you know what you are expecting.

Our book opens when Isaac is 19, Connie is 13 and Isaac has been sent to kill Connie and Mae. From here we find out what happened to make Connie leave with him, her initiation into becoming and her life as a Phantom, until her taking Mae's daughter into her care. And what a journey it is.

It's a real skill to be able to weave a dark story and still add beauty to it. It's especially hard in this tale, as there are very little shades of light. However, a great big burning patch is Isaac's love for Connie. Whilst not a conventional relationship, you see how deeply entwined they are. And then of course, there is Connie's love for Mae, the overriding factor as to why she starts her new life.

“Although i'd been a bitch to her on more than a million occasions, I loved her with my entire soul. She was the gentility to my boorishness, the peace to my war, and the conscience to my immorality. But more than that, she was the regular beat in my heart, and I knew, the moment I closed the door behind me, that it would never beat properly again.”

Simply beautiful. But don't let me run you down the wrong path. This book is filled with horrors that Connie has to endure and my heart broke for her on a regular basis. I'm sure some of you may need a sick bucket or a pack of tissues or both, but we all know I'm pretty difficult to break. So I sat there again, spellbound and just thoroughly enjoyed the story.

Dawn, you need not have worried. Connie & Isaac is a perfect compendium to the other books, and I can't wait for Annie's story. Whilst Mae will always have a special place in my heart, I've made room in there to love Connie as well. Two beautifully broken pieces of the same heart.

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