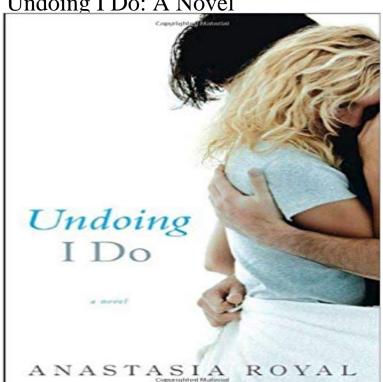
Undoing I Do: A Novel



Tobin hands me a letter. The words that shred me are: I am no longer in love with you. The world stops. Ten years ago, we stood before an altar and looked into each others eyes. There was so much we didnt see Undoing I Do isa poignant novelabout the convergence of love and divorce. Claire McCloud, musician, artist, actress and eccentric free spirit, suddenly finds herself a single mom in the new traditional American family--the divorced couple with two children.Wild, hilarious. and unconventional, Claire never thought she would meet anyone who could domesticate her. She never imagined a man who could be her partner forever. But then came He Who Wears Scarves in Summer: a handsome German artist named Tobin Kleinherz. Its the 1980s, and he claims Claires heart and soul at a hip gallery opening. After a whirlwind courtship, Tobin proposes and Claire amazes herself by accepting. Years later, after a beautiful wedding, two adorable children and countless adventures, Claire and Tobin come face to face with their marital demons. Claire moves from morning sickness to mourning sickness as she realizes her dashing Tobin is leaving, and she must face her future alone. After her marriage unravels, Claire revisits the crucial moments when love and dreams began to shatter and spiral out of control. With refreshing humor and the hard-won wisdom of a survivor, Claire grapples with lawyers, an empty bank account and myriad jobs to make ends meet. Almost miraculously, she pulls a new life from the wreckage and starts again on the road to happiness. Through a unique structure of interlocking vignettes, Undoing I Do examines the demise of love, uncovering its early symptoms, mysterious connections and powerful conclusions. This beautiful novel is much more than the anatomy of a divorce. Its the compelling tale of one womans struggle to transcend a bitter break

up, protect her children from the fallout, and live life on her own terms. Using humor and a distinctive lyrical writing style, Anastasia Royal has created a soul-baring storythat will have you laughing, crying, andenjoying every beautifullycrafted sentence. With her debut novel Undoing I Do, [Royal] paints a funny, poignant and realistic portrait of what happens when a golden couples marriage unravels. -- Chicago Sun Times Royal limns the raw depths of Claires suffering with both disarming candor and delicate subtlety. Poignant, painful, lyrical, Royals treatment of this lamentably common condition is astonishingly uncommon in the sheer force of its sympathetic honesty. --BooklistIn this poignant novel, Royal tells of a marriage gone wrong, a hostile divorce, and the pain of single motherhood so beautifully that you wont know whether to cry for her characters broken heart or swoon over the lyrical prose. --RedbookAdvance Praise for Undoing I DoFew have picked up the pieces of broken love with more elan than Claire McCloud. divorce-casualty, struggling mom, and a let-it-all-hang-out iconoclast who will shock and delight you...shaping so iridescent a tale from divorces dark matter takes a special writing gene, and evidently, Anastasia Royal has whole strands of it. -- Arthur Plotnik, author of Spunk & Bite: A Writers Guide to Bold, Contemporary StyleCalling Anastasia Royals stunning and supple roman a clef a first novel is like calling the Hope diamond a shiny little rock. As savage and sharp as it is lovely, with as many facets as life itself, Undoing I Do is a perfect gem of a book. Told with a surgeons eye for detail, the narrative employs all manner of prose and poetry to slice through the telling episodes of a marriage coming undone. It tackles big themes, and at times put me in mind of Nabokovs Pale Fire, but the things that linger most are the tiny sensual details. A new, important voice in literature is --Jav born. Bonansinga. national bestselling author of Twisted, Frozen and The Sinking of EastlandAs with every

unhappy family, every unhappy marriageis unhappyinits own way, and Anastasia Royal has given ussplendidlyunhappy marriage. By turns heartbreaking andhilarious, Undoing I Do is ultimately an uplifting tale of the determination and indomitablewomans of an spirit.--Binnie Kirshenbaum, author of An Almost Perfect MomentA rollicking ride through love, marriage, and unhappily ever after...alternately poetic, ribald, tragic and comic. Mostly comic, thank heaven. -- Tim Kazurinsky, actor and former Saturday Night Live cast member Undoing I Do is an astounding, brilliant and unforgettable story that introduced me to characters I will never forget. No short blurb can do justice to the poetry, the passion, the rage and the humor of this novel that had me laughing out loud one moment and weeping the next.Welcome first-time novelist Anastasia Royalto the front ranks of American story tellers. -- John D. Callaway, Host and Senior Editor of WTTWs Chicago Stories program, professional journalist for 45 years, and winner of the Peabody Award and twelve Emmys

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