



## The Undoing

*Shelly Laurenston*

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# The Undoing

Shelly Laurenston

**The Undoing** Shelly Laurenston

*A risk worth taking...*

No one would ever accuse Jace Berisha of having an easy life—considering her husband...you know...killed her. But that was then! Now she fights for mighty Viking gods with the spectacular and vicious Crows.

But things are turning very bad, very quickly because a vengeful, ancient goddess has come into the world with just one thing on her mind—ending it. And the only way they can hope to stop her is if the Crows join forces with their one-time enemies, the Protectors. A Viking Clan created to do nothing but kill every Crow they see.

Thankfully, Protector Ski Eriksen is a peace loving kind of guy. Because the woman he is desperately trying to get close to is the beautiful and not-very-chatty Jace. Battling Nordic clans? Unkillable goddesses? Jace's mean-spirited dog? None of these things would ever get in the way of a true Viking!

## The Undoing Details

Date : Published March 29th 2016 by Penguin Random House Publisher Services

ISBN :

Author : Shelly Laurenston

Format : Kindle Edition 400 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Urban Fantasy, Mythology

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## From Reader Review The Undoing for online ebook

### Aisling Zena says

#### 4.5 stars

This was another fantastic read from Shelly Laurenston. I was thoroughly entertained and I wish I could linger in the world she has created just a little while longer.

You shouldn't read this book unless you have read the first one, The Unleashing. S.L. literally unleashed a whole world in it, filled with so much new information and characters it was a tad overwhelming. This book thankfully is relatively toned down, not just in information but general Crow hijinks. It does re-cap some facts here and there but not in an exasperating-I've read-this-100-times-already way.

As in the first book our main characters are the Crows, Skuld's Harbingers of Death. Specifically here Jace, the Crows's Berserker. Jace, like all the Crows met an untimely death, at the hands of her husband. For a person that has been through so much she is level headed despite the Berserker rage that grips her every so often, usually after a physical confrontation or threat to her friends. Quite unlike her fellow Crows, she craves quiet and solitude to read her books in peace. It's not that she doesn't love all of them just that she needs that space to recharge.

The Protectors were created by the God Tyr, just as Skuld has Crows and Odin has Ravens, Tyr has Owls. They were created to be humanity's Protectors with a strong sense of justice and natural enemies of the Crows and Ravens. After killing each other extensively they finally realized that the Crows and Ravens and indeed all the Clans were essential to keep Ragnarok(End of Days) from happening. The Protectors are studious with an almost fanatic love for books. Protecting and acquiring knowledge is their life.

Protector Ski Eriksen approaches Jace with a job offer she agrees to after being put on the spot by her leader Chloe. Ski is the Protectors second in command and tries to take care of his Clan when they get too absorbed in their studies to notice the outside world. Jace fits right in with their ways and endears herself to them.

The plot picks up where it was left of at the end of the previous book. The spoiler is for those that have already read the first book, if you haven't it wont make much sense to you (view spoiler). As before we have multiple POVs that actually work. The beginning focuses on the budding relationship between Ski and Jace with intersecting POVs and events. At some point it feels as though the book is setting it's self up as filler but soon enough the villains atrocities escalate and the action begins. We have a new player making things more difficult for the Clans but so much more interesting for us.

I have a fondness for Norse mythology and this series brings it all into vivid,colourful life. I know that it's probably not completely accurate but I don't care, I 'm having too much fun! The Crows ruthlessness in protecting their own, their unparalleled craziness, their pets, their love interests and so much more combine to make a hell of an entertaining series that I can't help wanting to read more of. If you are a fan of PNR and UF, don't miss out, give this series a try.

\*\*ARC courtesy of Kensington Books via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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7/3/2016

I GOT AN ARC!!!! My very next read!

Thank you Kensington Books and NetGalley!

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15/12/2015

**We have blurb, date and cover people!!**

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### **Nadia says**

Oh. My. God. I loved it. Classic Shelly Laurenston. Fangirling so hard right now.

I'll try writing sensible sentences now.

*The Undoing* is an action-and-humor-packed sequel to the *Call of Crows* series about Nordic gods and their super-human Clans, who fight off mythical creatures, demons and gods on an every day basis and make this world a little bit more livable.

Aside from the already familiar Ravens and Crows, we're now introduced to the Protectors (who fight for justice in the name of Tyr) and Great Killers (Thor's Clan, who are as stupid as their god), and my personal favorite, kick-ass nuns also known as the Sisters of St. Mary Magdalene Convent of All Saints aka the Chosen Warriors of God. Can you imagine badass nuns? Hard, right? (view spoiler)

The world-building, writing, character development is just amazing, I have nothing but praise for this book. It was immensely entertaining, funny, cute, interesting, informative, the whole deal.

Highly recommended for fans of PNR with strong and smart female characters who support each other, caring and respectful, but still very manly and fiersome male characters, and just a bunch of whiny and bratty gods. Two thumbs up.

*A big thank you to Kensington Books for gifting me a copy via NetGalley.*

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### **Lo Bookfrantic says**

**5 ★★★★★ Crazy Crows ~ Stars**

**Genre: Paranormal/Vikings**

**Type: Book 2 of in the Call of Crows Series**

## **POV: Shifting - Multiple**

This book was phenomenal. I fell in love with all the crows and Vikings since book one and going into this book I didn't know what to expect. When I realized it was Jace's story I was super excited and I know that this one was going to be even better than the first one if that's even possible. I was correct this book had everything. We meet new characters but we still get to see Kera and her man Vig and enjoyed all the drama of the crows.

Jacinda "Jace" Berish is shy at least that's what everyone thinks because she doesn't want to talk with anyone. However what everyone interprets as shy is nothing but away for her to escape from speaking to anyone. She didn't feel the need to speak if she didn't have to. She was given the gift of rage by the Scult when her husband killed her and tried to bury her. She awoke as a crow and not just any crow but one that with he rage could kill everyone.

Danski "Ski" Eriksen is the leader of he guardian Vikings; he meets Jace on one of their missions and her anger and attitude attracted to him. There was just something about this crow that he liked. Maybe the fact that she was shy or the fact that she knew so many languages either way he like her right from the start. He found himself needing her help to translate books for their Viking clan. However; Jace didn't want anything to do with them or anyone.

The crows blew everything out of proportion as usual and decided that someone Jace's sudden race needed to stop and they though perhaps getting her a job will help her be more social. Jace didn't want to be social so she decided to accept Ski's job position to translate books for them.

Their relationship was so funny and just perfect I absolutely loved these two. Jace had a dark past that she preferred not talking about but she felt at home and different with this clans and she opened up to them. They immediately loved her and protected her. Now Jace had the crows and these nerdy gods to protect her. But she didn't need protecting mostly everyone else needed to be protecting from her and her rage once she would go into rage there was nothing that could stop her.

This book was full of funny events you will laugh so much to the point that your belly will hurt. There is so much drama but what do you expect with a bunch of girl crows fighting all the time and you will see a lot of action and defiantly some sexy steamy scenes. This book was packed with everything I look for in a book and it will leave you wanting more because yes there is more and I am already looking forward to the next book on the series. Lovers of paranormal would enjoy this book as long as you are comfortable with multiple point of views.

**MORE OF THESE CRAZY CROWS I love it...**

**CALL OF CROWS**

**BOOK ONE**

**BOOK TWO**

**Book Order Series:**

**Amazon ---> <https://amzn.com/B010ZZY2CQ>**

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**\*Avonna says**

The Undoing (Call of Crows, #2) by Shelly Laurenston has everything I want in a humorous paranormal romance! I was laughing and cheering, anxious and worried and just overall in love with all the characters, good and bad in this book. I highly recommend you read The Unleashing (Call of Crows, #1) first because it sets up the Norse mythology, world-building, conflict that carries over into book #2 and characters.

Jacinda “Jace” Berisha is an introvert member of the Crows who has the rage of a Berserker since her rebirth after her husband killed her. Ms. Laurenston takes an introvert, language specialist, book and puppy loving heroine and turns her into a kick-butt Berserker and makes it work. Protector Ski Eriksen is the perfect hero and mate for Jace. He runs the Protectors’ library and their personal lives because nothing is more important than books and learning for this group, except the occasional protection of innocents for their god, Tyr. Jace and Ski work together, with back-up from the Clans to uncover a way to defeat an unkillable goddess.

I cannot recommend this series enough! It is so much fun. It has characters that are original, crazy, funny and lovable. I am anxiously awaiting the next book!

Thank you to Kensington Books and Net Galley for allowing me to read this ARC in exchange for an honest review. It was wonderfully funny, original and well written.

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**Winter Sophia Rose says**

Witty, Action Packed, Steamy, Crazy, Intriguing & Laugh Out Loud Funny! A Awesome Series! I Loved It!

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**Sabrina says**

**KINDLE MONTHLY DEAL! (On sale)**

\*Amazon US\*Amazon UK\*

Before she became a Crow, Jace led a very different life, and it all ended the night her then husband, killed her. That's when she made the choice to fight for the Viking God's and changed her life to become a sister to

the Crows with a rage like no other. A rage that doesn't stop until her enemy is destroyed.

For an introvert like Jace, living in a house full of her sister Crows isn't very easy. Small talk is painfully annoying to her, and having to listen to incessant talking makes her want to go off on a rage. When she's told she needs a job she decides to take a translating job for the Protectors, and finally finds her place. They aren't like her sisters, they study and love books, and most importantly they don't find a need to constantly talk.

Ski Erikson is the Protector that looks over all the rest. He leads them in battle and in life, since most of them don't worry about menial things like paying bills, when there are books to be read and studied. Ski has always been interested in knowing more about Jace, the enigma of the Crows, so when she's in his territory and alone, he's determined to get her out of a book for once and into his arms.

This book kicked some ass! I forgot how amazing Shelly Laurenston was, and how much I liked her writing. *The Undoing* was nothing but perfect for this series. It was very easy to follow along with, and all the Gods and Goddesses weren't hard at all to keep track of. It's amazing how I picked up this book and was instantly taken to this different kind of world, where things such as Viking God's existed. Any book that can do that gets my stamp of approval.

Jace and Ski were amazing characters and I really enjoyed the humor they brought to the book, especially Jace. Their romance was very slow building, but getting to see the steps they took to get to being a couple was really sweet and I adored seeing Jace fumble around a bit, learning what a real relationship is like. It was great to see Ski pulling Jace out of her shell and I liked that he was so patient with her, and helped her along the way in their relationship.

The story had the usual action that I've come to expect from this author, and I loved the parts of the book where we got to see some ass kicking. These girls are badass and I love all of them so far. They each have their own abilities, and all have their own, very different, personalities. I like that the books have a little piece of all the Crows and we get to see how close they are with one another, even in those moments when there's drama between them.

Overall, *The Undoing* was an amazing, action-packed, sweet story that I highly recommend for any paranormal lovers. Even if you haven't read this genre before, I still recommend this series, and it would be a great introduction to the world of PNR.

*ARC kindly provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Yodamom says**

Fun, sexy, Nordic, action filled, cute animals adventures.

I really enjoy this series. It's sexy, funny, filled with gods, goddesses, nordic men and furry beasties. The women are never the fragile wall flowers waiting for their hero and the men are confident enough to stand back and admire the women as they do it for themselves. This book #2 in the series stepped up the volume

with Ski and Jace finding some form of connection. Hot hot hot, no games played, just viking loving action. I appreciate and adore the upfront honesty between these characters, it's so refreshing. They say it like it is and move on. This works for me, my biggest gripe is that some authors write their characters to hold on to their secrets/emotions/thoughts like their lives depend on being the same as everyone else. BLECH Good communication wins every time !

There is some excellent payback that you don;t want to miss. I squealed and cheered and scared my family, it was that good. :D

You must read book one to understand what is happening here. The characters are slowly developing and their past comes up here and grows.

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Thank you to NetGalley and the publisher for allowing me the chance to write an honest review.

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### **KatieV says**

I definitely liked this book more than the first. I think the first suffered a bit from all of the background and world building - a common occurrence for first books in a series. Maybe it's just me, but I was having a hard time keeping up with all the characters introduced. I think she hit her stride with this entry.

This book picks up right where the previous book left off and we aren't bombarded with a lot of new characters. The hero and his clan(The Protectors) had a brief appearance in the first book and the heroine, Jace, is known as well. She is the very quiet girl who latched on to the puppy Kera brought home to "foster" in the first book. Plus, we also get to see Kera and Vig quite a bit.

Again I'd call this more Urban Fantasy with romance than pure PNR. That's fine with me. If the story is interesting I'm ok with that. I'm warming up a bit to the narrator as well. Still not my favorite, but when you stare at a computer screen all day it's hard to read a long book the traditional way without massive headaches.

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### **Marta Cox says**

With this book the author has well and truly nailed it. I'm talking fist pumping, running around like a headless chicken and screaming because it's that good .Honestly I wasn't absolutely and totally enamoured by the previous foray into this crazy Nordic world but this instalment is quite simply fierce!

Jace is the heroine this time and she's quiet, introverted but when she gets mad you really need to run because Jace has a berserker rage inside her! Her fellow Crows may not understand fully her need to be solitary ( this girl hides in cupboards!) but she's one of them and they've got her back no matter what. Jace also happens to be extremely bright and blessed with a knowledge of languages that could really help the Protectors. Ski is determined to get to know Jace a whole lot better but there's a teensy problem to sort out first as a Goddess is walking around sacrificing humans in a bid to start Ragnarok. Ok maybe not such a small problem but if the Crows squabble and bicker amongst themselves how on earth can they ever cooperate with any of the other Vikings? Yes it's fair to say Jace and Ski have a lot on their plate.

I loved this book. Yes it's a romance but it's a slow burn as Jace has a whole lot of baggage from her past and boy was her first life unbelievable. The Crows are just the wackiest bunch of characters who at first seem selfish, bitchy and fearless but as their hysterical antics play out the reader begins to see the true strength of their bonds. I don't wish to say too much about the story but will say Ski is the ultimate Protector , it's almost as if he is the Protector who protects the Protectors! Jace holds so much passion inside her, be it for books, knowledge, her dog and eventually Ski. It was fabulous seeing the Crows work together even if at times they do seem to deliberately hinder themselves but it's all done in fun ok not everyone sees the funny side . If you have read the authors shifter stories then you will be overjoyed to see how she introduces quirky sometimes morose shifters here.

What more can I say? Such an assortment of characters to cheer for. We have wind up merchants , bullish and very large alarm clocks, flying dogs, disapproving grandmothers and of course those self obsessed Gods and Goddesses . If you want to tear up with laughter whilst shaking your head in disbelief then this book will fulfil those needs. I loved it and heartily recommend it and I can't wait to see what happens next.

I was gifted a copy from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

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### **Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says**

"THE UNDOING will no doubt have you smiling from ear to ear by the time you're done with it."

**Read this review in its entirety at Fresh Fiction**

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### **Julia's Book Haven says**

First let me say how happy and excited I was when I saw this was going to be Jace's story. She immediately grabbed my attention in the first book. I wanted to know everything about her and I couldn't wait for her book. And Shelly Laurenston didn't disappoint (she never does though!)

Jace is very much an introvert, who loves books and knowledge. People assume she's shy and just needs to get out more, but she just doesn't like pointless chit chat and tries to avoid it by hiding in cupboards and under houses. She was also gifted with berserker like rage when she came back as a Crow and it was

hilariously entertaining to read about her going slightly crazy and taking out all the bad guys around her. Jace is definitely my favourite character in the this series and I pretty much love everything about her.

Ski is a Protector from a clan that values knowledge, books, and justice above all else. Ski was super cute, he was basically the den mother for a bunch of book nerds who are usually too busy reading to take care of real life stuff. I thought he was the perfect partner for Jace because he could completely understand her and what she needs. I especially loved all the scenes with Ski, Jace, and all his brothers. They were all just such big book nerds together, it was adorable.

I will say that the romance in this was a real slow burn, nothing romantic really happened till like 50 or 60% but even though I would have loved more Ski and Jace steamy scenes, I felt like the pace made sense for their characters. And once they did get there, it was hot, hot, hot!

I can't wait for the next book in this series, really hoping its Erin's since I think it will be hilarious to watch her fall in love. Very much recommend this one to anyone looking for a great paranormal romance read, just make sure you read them in order! They are about separate couples but they have a running storyline through out that will make more sense if read from the first book.

*ARC provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Ivy Deluca says**

What happens when you take trademark Laurenston humor and action, mixed with a ton of Norse mythology and a dash of romance? This series is what happens. Ms. Laurenston's latest urban fantasy series is hard to describe but a hoot to read.

**The premise:** The second book in the series begins a few weeks after the first book ends. The Crows, a group of women who have been given a second chance at life by serving the nordic goddess Skuld, are just finding out that Gullveig, the big Bad introduced in the first book, isn't as vanquished as they thought she was. There are nine Clans that were formed by various gods and goddesses to work towards preventing Ragnarok, aka the apocalypse, or at least an incredibly bad day. The Crows are one of the Clans, but they all play a part in this story, as well as cameos by several gods including (dumb as a hammer) Thor, Odin, Tyr and Freyja. This is the overarching storyline that drives it all, and while there's plenty of exposition given to get the reader up to speed when necessary, I do recommend reading the first book.

**Jace is my soul sister-Crow:** Jacinda "Jace" Berisha, is the sister-Crow at the heart of this entry and we get a glimpse of her first Life as the wife of a crazy bastard cult leader. From the prologue on, I was solidly in Jace's corner. It also didn't hurt that Jace is an anti-social introvert who will take a good book and her dog Lev over (most) people. Frankly, she's a girl after my own heart.

**Ski's hot and nerdy, just like I like 'em:** Danski "Ski" Eriksen, one of the Protectors, wears glasses, is just as into books as his bethren but a better at the social game than anyone else. He's nerdy but self-aware, a great combination. He also needs Jace's help in translating some old Russian books he and his Protector brothers found. Jace captivates him but she's a bit oblivious and I liked that a lot. Ski's a great gamma type of hero - as essentially the protector of his Protector brothers, he's perfectly equipped to deal with their introverted, absent-minded professor ways. This also makes him the perfect man to love Jace.

**That dash of romance:** I think that going into this read with the mindset of urban fantasy rather than a more traditional paranormal romance helped my enjoyment because my expectations were tempered. When I say a dash, while each book is anchored by a love story, it's the big picture and the day-to-day lives and interactions between all these different warriors and gods that drives the narrative. The romance is like a tasty, sexy garnish rather than the meat of the tale.

This story is clearly unfolding over several books, and there's a lot of moving parts at work. It can make some scenes with a lot of explanations of the Gods and their relationship a bit unwieldy. That said, I truly enjoyed getting to see more of the 'verse, the different characters, as well as deepening the relationships established in the first book.

I always enjoy a chance to visit one of Ms. Laurenston's diverse and hella-funny worlds, and *The Undoing* builds and expands on the first book so well, I can't wait to see what's next. The Crows are moving up my list of favorites and if you're into urban fantasy/paranormal romances, I encourage you to give Ms. Laurenston's (who also publishes under the name G.A. Aiken) books a shot.

\*\*ARC provided by publisher via netgalley for review\*\*

For more reviews, visit

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### **Jilly says**

Yes!! A **female** berserker! I'm so happy! That's right, boys, Jace is so kickass that you'd better run and hide when she gets mad!

She's all sweet and quiet on the outside - just wants to be left alone to read. (sound familiar?) But, if you poke the bear, you will be sorry.

Yeah, you don't want to see Jace's bear-side.

This is the second book in an awesome series that is super hilarious and entertaining. There is tons of Nordic mythology in zany form. Yes, zany. Like when the squirrel, Ratatosk, who lives in the World Tree - Yggdrasil- came to give the clans a message, we learn that he is a jerk.

*not only did he transport messages between the gods and the underworld, but he was also a major, grade A shit starter. Literally, that was his job. To start shit and keep that rage going.*

*...sometimes he's make a leader guess the message by doing pantomime.*

*In other words, Ratatosk was just a dick. As many squirrels were.*

See? Now, how could I not possibly love a book that has lines like that last one? It speaks to the snarky little black heart of mine.

And, this book has everything my dark dark soul loves: bloodshed, talking shit, fighting, an awesome dog who eats bad humans, getting drunk and inappropriate, a fake bad party, and love. Don't forget about the love.

I would suggest that most of my friends read this series because you are all just as demented and hilariously evil as I am. That means you will like it.

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### **Mara says**

An incredibly boring book. The banter, the calling card of this author, here was irritating, stupid, and meaningless.

There was an overabundance of characters with the unwanted effect to make them undistinguished and flat. You know Kira as the marine, Rachel as the nuisance, that other as the crazy or that as the psychopath. Even the heroine was just a stereotype, a cardboard. The men were even worse, I kept switching them in my mind. I wasn't able to pinpoint the hero for most of the first chapters.

If there was a story I couldn't really see it, there were 3 very threadbare ideas that never got running (romance, cult, the end of the world). At 55% there was no meat on these bones. At all. No romance, no plot, no ragnarock. Just an excuse for the messy "laughing" part. Honestly I couldn't give a damn. I couldn't even go beserk on this book. It's really not worth it.

It seems this the cheap slapstick version of Immortals after Dark. Or at least it seemed to me that way. Nix on steroids and cloned. Sorry, it doesn't work.

I'm just happy it was on offer. But even at this price I can't recommend it.

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