



Undone

Brooke Taylor

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When Kori Kitlzer, the "dark angel" of the 8th grade, tells Serena Moore that they are more alike than she thinks, Serena is instantly intrigued. As their friendship solidifies and their lives entwine, Serena tries to become more like the fearless, outspoken, and ambitious Kori. Soon Serena doesn't know where she begins and Kori ends. But when a twist of fate yanks Kori away from Serena, she will need to find a way to complete her best friend's life left undone.

Undone is a striking debut novel about friendship, family, and the secrets we keep from the people to whom we are closest.

Undone Details

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Author : Brooke Taylor

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From Reader Review Undone for online ebook

Ginny says

Kind of dull. The cover pulled me in big time, but was just a lackluster read. Parts of the middle and the end were the only real entertaining bits. I am glad to be finished with this book.

Laura says

I have a hard time with young adult novels where a character (often a girl) is depicted as so badass and cool and amazing and of course something bad happens to her. That's actually not a spoiler. I couldn't really see why Kori was so great. I also found all of the twists predictable and didn't like that everything wrapped together neatly in the end. Still, it was an enjoyable read and I'm willing to suspend my disbelief of those sorts of things.

The one unforgiveable thing to me is the constant pop culture reference. This book is slated to come out in August 2008, and some of the references are already dated! A boy playing guitar at a party plays "Chasing Cars" by Snow Patrol for no other reason than for the author to show she's IN TOUCH! Half of the class lost their virginity to Nickelback (UGH) and the choir sings a Nickelback song at one point. There's also mention of a blog called "Postcard Secrets". I think many young adults would dislike that sort of patronizing thing.

Jessie Knite says

I actually stumbled onto this book by mistake. After art class one Wednesday, I walked to the library to wait for my mom to pick me up. I was already reading like 10 books at once at this time, but I went browsing around anyway.

While browsing through a pile of books I found Undone. The copy looked new-ish, as if it was barely opened. Now, I usually don't like covers with people's faces on them, but I just LOVED this cover!!! I know you're not supposed to judge a book by it's cover, but that's exactly what I did. I read the summary and I knew I just had to read it.

Brooke Taylor brings strong characters to the frontlines. Serena is a sophomore in high school and self-described closet gaming geek. She is saved from social exile when she forms a friendship with Kori, a rebel and the class slut. I won't be giving anything away when I say this: when Kori dies, Serena puts her own identity aside and "finishes" Kori's undone list.

What makes this book truly unique and thrilling is the numerous plotlines that intertwine to create an underlying mystery that unfolds to become Serena's self-actualization. Fast pace, it keeps you on your toes until the very end. It gets right to the point and keeps you entertained all the way through. I could not put down this book!

The girls do experiment with drugs, drinking, etc. basically what most teenagers do, but it does not endorse that teens should do it. This might be a complaint for some people, but it made the story that much closer to relating to teenagers.

A must read!

YA Reads Book Reviews says

When I first picked up this book, the description led me to believe it'd be about Kori. But really, only a small part is about Kori. *Undone* is Serena's story; it's a story of tempting fate, testing the bonds of friendship, discovering one's identity, overcoming grief, growing up. *Undone* is Serena's journey, but it also offers the reader a journey, one that, if you allow it, can reach the deepest part of your heart and possibly change your outlook on life.

Serena doesn't know what made Kori decide to abandon her spot in the "popular crowd" all those years ago, but she's grateful Kori chose her as her new best friend. Serena idolizes Kori to the point where she dyes and styles her hair so that the two are often mistaken for sisters. Kori is brash and bold and fearless, everything Serena wishes she could be. And Serena can't imagine life without Kori, until she's suddenly forced the face that reality.

Serena is an extremely relatable character. She's so blinded by her envy of Kori that she fails to notice her own strong qualities. It isn't until she has to live without Kori that Serena realizes she's her own person and that perhaps Kori isn't as perfect as Serena always thought.

In an effort to cope with the loss of her best friend, Serena embarks on a mission to complete Kori's list of fate-tempting tasks. Serena thinks completing the list will bring her closer to Kori, but it actually ends up teaching her more about herself. For so long, Serena had been so wrapped up in Kori's identity that she forgot she had one of her own. Brooke Taylor beautifully expresses the emotions of a young girl trying to find herself while managing feelings of sorrow, suspicion, and isolation. Taylor's prose is hauntingly honest and realistic. Her story is innovative, at times romantic, and always gripping. It's one of those books you'll want to read again and again just to learn something new.

Sierra says

words have failed me

Christa says

this book had me and my sister crying by the end of the book. the characters reminded me a lot of people i know, knew of and always wondered about. the overall message and the symbolism through out the book is what stays with you. i recommend this to all women.

Sara says

I am glad I checked this out of the library instead of buying it! This is one of those books where the characters are all so unlikable that I didn't want to keep reading about them, but the plot was decent enough to make me finish the book. The main character, Serena, finds a list of five things her best friend, Kori, wanted to do, and so she decides to take on the items herself and complete the list, even though they're kind of cryptic and she doesn't know exactly what they all mean. Kori is supposed to be a kickass bad girl, but I

was kinda underwhelmed by her; she was too "I don't care what anyone thinks!" and "I'm so above this all!" to actually be cool (or truly believed). Serena's constant "Kori is the BEST!" refrain got tiring as well, and Serena herself was no less irritating, as her narration was grating and trying to be all too trendy and flippant. The secondary characters didn't feel especially real either, and I had a hard time believing everyone's actions. Also, there is a lot of smoking, drinking, and drug use in this, which is fine - I've enjoyed plenty of books containing these things - but it's written as if this behavior is so standard and normal that a teen book simply *has* to include them!

Although the end of the book was a little predictable, some of the thoughts imparted from Serena's teachers were quite interesting, like how we all carry burdens for other people without questioning and/or realizing it. I suppose I'm giving this 2 stars mainly because parts seemed quite thought-provoking. Overall, however, I think the whole book was supposed to be like that and simply wasn't (at least for me).

Jumana says

In this book I've learned not to take life for advantage. It was really sad when her friend died and then she found out it was her real sister. Live life the way you want to live it and never use it.

Laura says

I was really not impressed with this book. The characters fell flat on many occasions and I couldn't figure out why this girl would want to follow in Kori's footsteps. I didn't like the content of this book, they portrayed teenagers as stereotypical and troublesome, which is annoying because not all teenagers act like that. The story didn't seem to have much point and I got tired of the main character and how she reacted to all the situations. I would not recommend this book.

*Taken from my book reviews blog: <http://reviewsatmse.blogspot.com/2009...>

Melissa says

Initially, I thought this book was a poor rip-off of John Green's Looking for Alaska, but although there were some similarities, this went in a different -- and interesting -- direction. In the end, while I wasn't super enthusiastic about it, I thought it wasn't bad.

Tasha says

Kori Kitzler is different - to say the least. She is beautiful, mysterious, the subject of rumors, and has quite a reputation with the guys. One fateful day in eighth grade, average girl Serena Moore walks into the bathroom and runs into Kori. Serena is shocked when Kori tells her they are more alike than she thinks, but instead of turning around and running out of the bathroom Serena stays. This marks the beginning a deep and powerful friendship between the girls. Since that fateful day the girls have been joined at the hip and share everything with each other.

Now it's the girls sophomore year in high school and their friendship has grown even more. When Serena's favorite teacher, Doc, assigns the class the task to create a list of five things they would never do- a way to tempt fate, Serena doesn't take it seriously at all since she doesn't trust fate. Serena and Kori continue on with their lives leaving the list forgotten until tragedy strikes Kori. Serena is devastated and one of the only things she has left is Kori's list. In a way to commemorate Kori, Serena decides to take Kori's list and do everything on it. While the list puzzles Serena she knows that she can't leave anything undone. While she tries to finish Kori's last wishes, Serena ends up learning more about herself than she ever would have been able to if life had just stayed the same.

This is another amazing book from a debut Class of 2k8 author. Undone was completely spell binding. While I am nothing like Kori or Serena I felt so connected to them and wished they were my friends. The loyalty they had for each other was so real that it made me think how lucky they were to be friends, and how lucky I am to have friends. I also really liked the writer's style. To me it was a tad different which made the whole book a refreshing read. Now the story itself was also mesmerizing. It totally grabbed me in and wouldn't release its grasp until the very last page. The story took twists and turns that I never suspected in the least. I think that half the time I was reading my mouth was hanging open in shock of what had just happened. My only complaint is the book ended! I seriously didn't want this book to end, it was just that good. I seriously cannot wait for more from Brooke Taylor, as I expect they will be just as amazing. I definitely recommend this book to everyone and anyone. It's a bright light that just can't be put out, that reminds us all of how valuable friendship is and how much we should treasure it.

Cindy Mitchell *Kiss the Book* says

Taylor, Brooke Undone, 320 p (app.). Walker (Bloomsbury), August 2008.

Serena isn't sure why bad girl Kori befriended her that day in eighth grade, but the two have been inseparable since. She knows that Kori has secrets and issues, and a drinking problem, but Serena has never been one to pry. Now, however, Serena is only left with questions and grabs onto the idea of fulfilling one of Kori's English assignments - a list of 5 ways in which Kori wanted to tempt fate - as a way to connect with her friend and hopefully find some closure. As with most secrets, however, the answers Serena finds may not be anything that she actually wants to hear.

For all the interesting dark potential this book had, it is all wasted, at least for school libraries, on massive amounts of swearing (23 'f' and more than 50 other swears) and sexual references.

NO. Cindy, Library Teacher

***Michelle* says**

i completely loved this book!! it starts out with how kori and serena's friendship starts, which starts with kori saying that "we're more alike than you think". Soon in a class that both kori and serena have, the teacher says that everyone has to write 5 things to tempt fate with. Serena's list is:

1. Be on the front page of the Kismet Courier. Heh.

- 2.Sing in front of an audience. Without puking.
- 3.Become BFFs with a cheerleader. Again-without puking.
- 4.Fall for a high school guy. Um... yeah, don't think so.
- 5.Find my father. A girl can dream, can't she?

Kori's list is:

- 1.Sing with Bleeder Valve.
- 2.Get a tattoo.
- 3.Work things out with Shay.
- 4.Confront D.
- 5.Tell Serena.

Soon, Serena bumps into Anthony Beck. She soon crushes on him. After school, Kori and Serena meet up at a place that they always go to. Serena dares Kori to go skinny-dipping in the reservoir and jump off the cliff to do so. Kori dares Serena to do the same but as usual Serena doesn't so Kori dares Serena to make-out with Anthony the next night. Anthony and Adrian show up at the cliff and take them to the party. The next night before Serena is about to go to another party she goes to her mothers bedroom and sees that her mom snuck out too, so she goes. While Serena was checking, Kori went online as Serena and told Shay to meet her at a hotel to see someone. At the party that night, Serena met up with Anthony and they started talking, and then they started makin out. Kori came over there and said," Take care of her Becks, then take my kitten home." After that, Kori went to Parker Walsh's car and rode off. The next morning, Kori was found dead in Parker's car in front of the school. Serena got all Kori's stuff in her locker and looked in one of the notebooks and found Kori's list and made it a priority to finish things for Kori. Soon Serena is on the Kismet Courier because she was involved in the Mini Mart "attack". Once Serena was friends with Shay, she told him to bring her to get a tatoo. After that, Serena uses Kori's fake id to get to the club(LoDo) and to sing with Bleader Valve. At school, Marci Mancini(cheerleader) drops a sonogram pic that is her baby. One time, Serena went to confront Parker and saw that he couldn't move his legs and so Serena accused him and got him to belive in himself. Serena finds it and confronts her about it and starts bringing her extra food because the other cheerleaders don't let her eat a lot. One day that Serena brings her food, Marci says that Serena is her new bff. Soon, she works things out with shay and they become really good friends. Parker sends Serena a text telling her to meet him and so he tries to walk and kinda can now. Serena throws a flour bag at the new statue of a fake Kori to confront D(dad). At the same time, Serena finds out that Kori is her step-sister and finds out her dad is Kori's dad. Also Serena knows what Tell Serena means is tell her that they are sisters. At the end, Anthony and Serena are boyfriend and girlfriend.

Latasha Woodral says

Loved it! It's a awesome book ,

Steph (Reviewer X) says

To say this is a novel about finding yourself is to simultaneously hit the mark and to sell it short, because while that is precisely what it is, when I finished reading it, I felt it accomplished much more than the "finding yourself" bit. Thing is, it's hard to define Undone, if only because it fits so many categories and themes of self-discovery: mothers and daughters, best friends, first loves, first temptations, missing fathers, so on, so forth. The truth of the matter is, it touches on many topics worthy of exploration, such as parental abandonment, confusing relationships, friendships you feel are extraneous until you find out they're not,

drunken hookups, and many more I won't go into detail here because it would ruin your reading experience.

Added to all of this, is ultimately what makes a sane person keep turning pages the most—a mystery. The plot is very clever (and, admittedly, sneaky) this way, filled with intricacies, and with hints right there in front of you all throughout, but that you don't take notice until the very, very end.

But all of what I have said so far doesn't even touch what struck me most about this novel, and that is its accessibility. Sure, it's crammed with lessons, messages, and morals which the reader can't help but at least consider while reading. However, the tone of Brooke Taylor's writing never wavers from that of a witty, realistic teen, one who taps into your emotions, making you laugh, cry (yes, I did, literally), and feel what she's feeling, in the purest, most pristine manner.

This book spoke very personally to me, and I'm sure it also will to many other girls (or boys, if they may be so bold as to read it) out there. I'd recommend it to anyone, but especially to reluctant readers, who are not going to be disappointed with Brooke Taylor's voice.
