

[Free and download] Undone: A Novel

Undone: A Novel

John Colapinto

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John Colapinto : Undone: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Undone: A Novel:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Read It!!By K. E. RayneThe fact that this novel has not been published in the U.S. is a crime. For a story this good to be sidetracked by the apparent topic is simply wrong-headed. John Colapinto's follow-up to About the Author is well-written, taut, and filled with characters who both entrance and revolt the reader. Though it is purportedly about pedophilia, it's actually about the depths to which human beings will go to harm others and how easy it is to fall prey to both other people's schemes and our own darkest possibilities. The

climactic moment seems a little rushed to me, but this is a book worth reading for anyone who likes a psychological thriller or a crime drama. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. About the male desire ... for money
By broodingnorwegian
Along with some of the other reviewers here, I bought this book on the strength of the NY Times review, which was quite thought-provoking. I was particularly struck by the author's claim to have written a book in which "[v]irtually every page is saturated in this theme of male desire," in that this theme is one that interests me, and in fact one I have (full disclosure) written about myself. But I didn't find that to be the case; what I found was that virtually every page was saturated with the desire to get the riches of another by going to astonishing lengths, which is an entirely different read. I didn't see much exploration of male sexuality at all. Of course, I also missed any of the humor the professional reviewers seemed to find, and was left depressed by the characters and wondering why this story was written. A few too many plot conveniences also took away from it quite a bit (why would a cop who just gave very bad news to someone then leave that someone alone in the patrol car while he scribbled notes on the front porch?)
Sour grapes? Perhaps.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Was a reluctant purchase, one I certainly don't regret.
By Bird
I'll begin this review by mentioning that I'm not much of a novel reader. I was reluctant to purchase this book after deciding to expand my interests a little -- and I was not disappointed. Initially (after all the characters have been introduced) the book seems to become somewhat predictable to any sensible person. The author has a weirdly, wonderful way of sparking a feeling of sympathy and hope throughout the story. However, he managed to take me through the whole gamut of emotions with each page turn. It was not until I reached the story's climax that I found myself unable to stop reading as I was determined to discover "what happens next ... and next". One night I found myself up past midnight and unable to put it down for fear of losing my momentum. I will leave it at that (for fear) of being too obnoxious and simply state that this book is well worth a read and will certainly not disappoint.
Final word: With relatively short chapters, it was easy to reach "stop points"/milestones as I read in-between my normal duties of life.

Already hailed and persecuted for its perverse humor and wildly wicked sensibility, *Undone* is the tour-de-force black comedy by International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award Nominee John Colapinto. In modern day America, Dez is a former lawyer and teacher — an ephebophile with a proclivity for teenage girls, hiding out in a trailer park with his latest conquest, Chloe. Having been in and out of courtrooms (and therapists' offices) for a number of years, Dez is adrift, at odds with a society that persecutes him over his desires. From his couch one afternoon, Dez watches an interview with Jasper Ulrickson, a doting father and loving husband whose heartrending memoir, *Lessons from My Daughter*, has become a national bestseller. The memoir chronicles his journey with his wife, Pauline, who suffered a stroke giving birth to their only child and has been in a locked-in state ever since. Espousing their deep connection and chaste marriage, Jasper's selfless devotion to his wife has made him one of the most popular and admired men in America. So Dez sets out to do what any red-blooded American would do: destroy Ulrickson by using Chloe to pose as the famous author's long-lost daughter, infiltrate his family, seduce him, and, when

Praise for *Undone*: "Undone is an addictive book." —New Pop Lit
"New Yorker staffer Colapinto's novel (after *About the Author*) is an over-the-top, irreverent, and darkly comical thriller... Colapinto's novel oscillates between highly ironic and deeply earnest treatments of this taboo subject matter. The story tackles sexual and moral dilemmas that are worth contemplating, delivering them at a breakneck and often entertaining pace." —Publishers Weekly
"Cannily over the top in its comic depravity and magnetizing in its sympathy, Colapinto's battle royale of innocence and evil, blindness and illumination, betrayal and love will thrill those who enjoy subversively erotic and suspenseful fiction of the finest execution and most cutting implications." —Booklist
Starred "[Colapinto's] pacing is expert... A well-machined page-turner that brings some smarts to a touchy subject." —Kirkus
"Undone is one of the most profoundly disturbing novels you'll ever read —there's not a taboo John Colapinto isn't willing to skewer —but it's also one of the most entertaining. Equal parts thriller and deft satire, *Undone* will make you laugh while you cringe and leave you asking questions about the very culture that created it." —Tod Goldberg, author of *Gangsterland*
"Wicked, sexy, funny, ghastly, tragic, and, oh, did I say very funny. The dialogue is good and so is the narrative, intelligent and witty. A terrific read." —Michael Lindsay-Hogg, author of *Luck and Circumstance*
"Undone casts a very specific spell: It enthralls and horrifies simultaneously... it's a pseudo-incestuous thriller, a noir that, like Francine Prose's *Blue Angel* and Philip Roth's *American Pastoral*, details the unraveling of the moral American man and his world... The inevitable disaster exerts a magnetizing force, drawing the reader forward at hurtling speeds to an intolerable climax. Our own urgency and hunger for the story is upsetting perhaps precisely because it mimics the hero's troubling lust." —The Globe and Mail
"You might call *Undone* a *Lolita* for the DNA-age.... Colapinto revels conspicuously in words and language. His sprightly third-person narrator rambles garrulously, as if extemporizing an obscure fable. Put the book down and it's easy to imagine him still chatting away inside the covers... *Undone* stretches credulity like taffy, mostly because it can: the dominant mood here is social and psychological satire, not realism. Colapinto exploits it all brilliantly, taking considerable risks along the way." —Emily Donaldson, The Toronto Star
"As impolite a book as you're likely to read... *Undone* is a novel about envy and the ways in which it corrodes and corrupts." —Mark

Medley, *The Globe and Mail* “In his arresting novel, John Colapinto fearlessly explores the troubled terrain that lies between desire and cruelty, fidelity and temptation, and crime and punishment. Equal parts mystery, social satire, and philosophical rumination, *Undone* asks ‘What drives a good man to act badly?’” —Rachel Giese, journalist “Vivacious is an adjective often reserved for women, but *Undone* is that unusual hybrid—a vivaciously male novel. Colapinto targets the bloodless male literary characters of the 21st century as his story profanely embodies the great roles—orphans, protectors, invalids, lechers, predators—and tosses literary themes in the air like so many spinning crystals. Colapinto, who is astutely brilliant at animating people on the pages of *The New Yorker*, refracts modern morality—hubris, loss, good, evil, lust, revenge—to give us a spicy take full of verve, vim, and villainy.” —Claudia Casper, author of *The Reconstruction* “John Colapinto has written a wicked and sharp-edged novel that cuts deep into both contemporary media culture and the uncontrollable embarrassment that is male sexual desire.” —Russell Smith, author of *Girl Crazy* “Though it takes its best cues from the traditional mystery novel, it is also a satire shot through with unexpected, touching sincerity. The characters are daft, sweet, disgusting, outrageous, heartrendingly admirable, annoying—and oddly true. I read the story thinking ‘This could never happen!’ knowing full well that, in the morally conservative, sexual crime-obsessed America of today, it actually could happen.” —Karen Connelly, author of *The Lizard Cage*