

**UNDONE** (first published in *No Distance Between Us*, April 2022)

by **Dinamarie Isola**

I'm sorry  
my mouth couldn't utter  
words you needed  
more than me

Fear steals my voice  
Pride, my offensive line  
Paralyzed, not indifferent,  
only one part of me  
can function at a time  
Against my heart's flutter,  
everything stills  
That calm  
rattles my knees,  
knits my fingers

I don't care, darling—  
I care too much  
It flattens me  
I've not turned away to move on;  
my back a privacy screen  
as I quietly collect  
the springs that have popped,  
put them in place  
so no one knows  
the power you have to  
undo me