

PRAISE

for



AND IT GOES LIKE THIS...

by G. Andi Rhos

“Using 1980s inner city Brooklyn as its backdrop, *And It Goes Like This* is a deeply affecting bildungsroman of Charlotte-Louise Andrews. She swallows meconium in utero and nearly suffocates at birth. Born illegitimate, never knowing her father, haphazardly raised by an alcoholic welfare mother, suffering sexual abuse at the hands of her mother’s twin brother, low self-esteem and distorted body image all serve to intensify the fifteen-year-old’s rocky start in life. Long-suffering Charlotte-Louise is determined to make herself over. This makeover sets the stage for the three astonishing years that follow.

She forges an unlikely friendship with a foul mouthed, promiscuous and boisterous teen named Candace Velásquez. Candace introduces Charlotte-Louise to half-Venezuelan, half-Trinidadian pretty boy Joaquin Lomax, a sly genius drug dealer five years Charlotte-Louise’s senior. Although seeking a sense of self and a life of purpose, through these associations Charlotte-Louise enters a world where morality is punished and wanton acts are rewarded.

Novelist G. Andi Rhos challenges the reader’s sensibilities with richly detailed harrowing and laugh-out-loud accounts of Charlotte-Louise’s life. Rhos writes with uncompromising lyrical

authority while capturing the uniqueness and commonality of black American and Latino cultures. Jump-off-the-page characters assault the reader with a full gamut of emotions from desperation to exuberance; and deeds from altruism to revenge. Underlying all the chaos and melodrama that catapults Charlotte-Louise's maturity is the story of people, each with their personal tragedies and triumphs, who come together to form a steadfast unconventional family.

And It Goes Like This is a haunting tale that is at once heartbreaking, heartwarming and heart stopping—arguably the most important urban novel of our generation.”

— Mona James, *The Mona James Experience* (11/2007)