

Failures in Love

By Iris Murdoch

5 “I know how much you grieve over those who are under your care: those you try to help
and fail, those you cannot help. Have faith in God and remember that He will in His own
way and in His own time complete what we so poorly attempt. Often we do not achieve for
others the good that we intend but achieve something, something that goes on from our ef-
10 fort. Good is an overflow. Where we generously and sincerely intend it, we are engaged in
a work of creation which may be mysterious even to ourselves—and because it is mysteri-
ous we may be afraid of it. But this should not make us draw back. God can always show
us, if we will, a higher and a better way; and we can only learn to love by loving. Remem-
ber that all our failures are ultimately failures in love. Imperfect love must not be con-
demned and rejected but made perfect. The way is always forward, never back.”