



Ashland, Oregon

Phone: 760-300-3620

editors@ashlandcreekpress.com

www.ashlandcreekpress.com

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Contact: Midge Raymond

619-796-4343

midge@ashlandcreekpress.com

JoeAnn Hart's new novel, **FLOAT**, takes a smart, satirical look at family, the environment, and life in a hardscrabble seaside town in Maine

"...witty, profound, and beautifully observed..." — Margot Livesey

RELEASE: February 2013 **PRICE:** \$17.95 **TRIM** 5.25 x 8 x .67 **PAGES:** 281 **ISBN:** 978-1-61822-020-2

(Ashland, OR—October 10, 2012) — Ashland Creek Press is pleased to announce the February 2013 publication of JoeAnn Hart's smart, witty second novel, *FLOAT*, a wry tale of financial desperation, conceptual art, insanity, infertility, seagulls, marital crisis, jellyfish, organized crime, and the plight of a plastic-filled ocean.

When Duncan Leland looks down at the garbage-strewn beach beneath his office window, he sees the words *God Help Us* scrawled in the sand. While it seems a fitting message—not only is Duncan's business underwater, but his marriage is drowning as well—he goes down to the beach to erase it. Once there, he helps a seagull being strangled by a plastic six-pack holder—the only creature in worse shape than he is at the moment.

Duncan rescues the seagull, not realizing that he's being filmed by a group of conceptual artists and that the footage will soon go viral, turning both him and the gull into minor celebrities. And when an unsavory yet very convincing local talks him into a not-quite-legitimate loan arrangement, Duncan can't help but agree in a last-ditch attempt to save the jobs of his employees.

For a while, it seems as if things are finally looking up for Duncan—yet between his phone-sex-entrepreneur ex-girlfriend's very public flirtations and the ever-mysterious terms of his new loan, Duncan realizes that there's no such thing as strings-free salvation—and that it's only a matter of time before the tide rises ominously around him again.

"Hart's Maine landscape is rich with eccentric characters..." — Mameve Medwed

About the author: JoeAnn Hart is the author of *Addled* (Little, Brown, 2007). Her award-winning work has appeared in a wide variety of literary journals and national publications, and she is a regular contributor to the *Boston Globe Magazine*. **About the cover artist:** Karen Ristuben is an artist and educator from Gloucester, Massachusetts (<http://www.karenristuben.com>).

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