

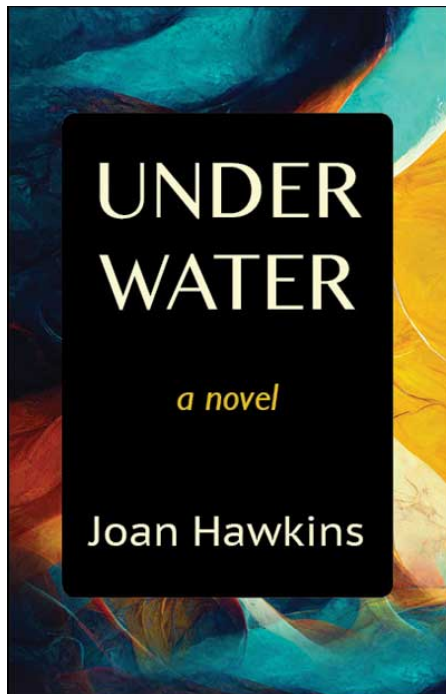
451
Editions

UNDERWATER

by Joan Hawkins

ISBN 978-1-9162975-6-2 / 260 pages / €15.95

A ground-breaking coming of age tale set in 1960s New York



Kate Stevens loves her husband, Harry, and their baby daughter, Cam. But a girl called Valery St. John exists within Kate, an alter-ego of verve and daring that has long yearned for adventure, lust and grief – in male terms.

It takes a chance encounter with a beautiful, charismatic artist named Margo, to bring Valery, and the alternative lifestyle she represents, to the fore. Kate's ensuing affair with the lesbian painter prompts a personal transformation, and proves a crucible for the relationship between herself and Harry.

When Joan Hawkins' debut novel was first published by GP Putnam in 1974, it was ahead of its time. Set in the turbulent days of the late 1960s, it explores a young woman's journey of discovery as she finds herself at a personal crossroads in a period of massive social and cultural change. Themes of sexual exploration, gender identity, feminism and rebellion blend with a satirical take on the crumbling old order. The grey suits of tradition are being challenged by student protests, racial integration and the emergence of women in the workplace.

Underwater still bristles with passion, humour and defiance, almost fifty years on, and this third edition of Joan Hawkins's debut novel is now available from 451 Editions.

The title can be purchased internationally online at all good book sales outlets, and all of the author's five novels can also be ordered from any local bookstore by referencing US distributors Ingram, or UK distributors, Gardners.

For more about Joan Hawkins, see her own website: www.JoanHawkins.net

For press queries contact: books@451Editions.com
and see more at: www.451Editions.com