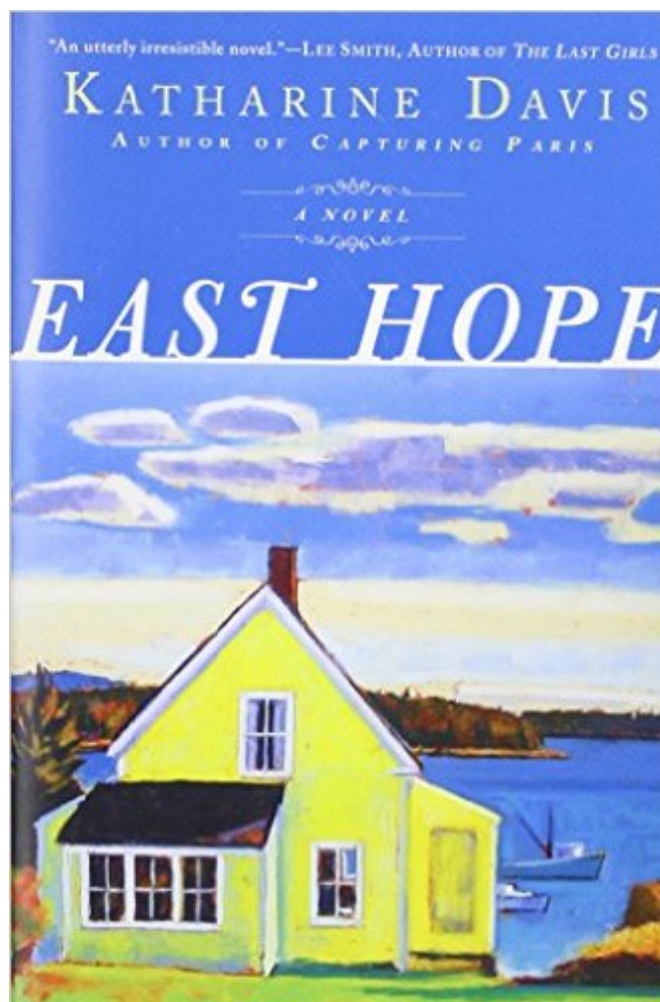


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# East Hope



## Synopsis

A ?captivating novel of loss and recovery?(Katheleen Maloy, author of *Every Last Cuckoo*) and new beginnings, set in a small town in Maine. Several months after her husband?s sudden death, and troubled by one night?s indiscretion, Caroline Waverly seeks refuge in the house she?s inherited in East Hope, Maine. There she finds the courage to face the consequences of her choices?her precarious finances, her alienated college-age son, and the man she left behind. Will Harmon also puts his old life behind him, arriving in East Hope to run the local used bookshop. As he questions his desires and struggles with his failing marriage, Will yearns for the wisdom to do what is right. Then Caroline walks into Will?s bookstore, and they establish a tentative friendship?with the promise of something more. As they seek to rescue what is most important in their lives, they cling to a distant hope?for understanding, for family, and for love.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (12 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

East Hope is a delight to read, full of characters so finely drawn that we follow them through their travails and triumphs with worry, anticipation, and quiet satisfaction at every step along their paths. The setting is so integral to the story, and so richly detailed, that we see the light and feel the cold and drive through the snow and taste the fish chowder along with the characters. These are real people with real problems, and real ups and downs in coping with them, sometimes well and sometimes not. The plot has more twists and turns than a maze, and it's a can't-put-it-down reading experience. As a fellow fiction writer, I am filled with admiration for Katharine Davis's writerly skill.

Read it -- you'll be glad you did!

"East Hope" is the story of two people, each dealing with personal pain and having to re-make their lives. Caroline's husband, Harry, has died of a heart attack, leaving her a financial mess that forces her to sell their home in Maryland and search out a quieter, simpler life in Maine. Will is a professor at a women's college in Pennsylvania, until a false accusation causes him to have to leave his job. He takes a job managing a book store in a small Maine town, while his wife fast-tracks her career in New York City and their problems become as wide as the distance that separates them. Will and Caroline trade complicated city lives for a more quiet pace of life, where only the most important things matter. This is a love story, but a modern love story, complicated and full of reality. The author excels at describing the beauty of the coastal Maine town, its sturdy and caring inhabitants, and the careful hope of two broken people. I look forward to more from Katherine Davis (her previous novel, "Capturing Paris" was a delight also).

The main character was, in my opinion, totally unsympathetic. Her friend Vivienne was my favorite character in the book. She spoke the truth and proved to be a steadfast friend even when her opinions were unwelcome. Everything else about the book seemed shoe-horned and the ending was simply a complete throwaway. The mom's ridiculous procrastination about telling her son her news was annoying. The bookstore owner's character and his life problems were more interesting, although that story line was also strained. It struck me as a book that was much, much longer and edited poorly. I hope that's the case. It doesn't make me want to pick up any more of this author's books.

This is an example of women's fiction trying to be literary. The story was fine, but way too much detail and description. Actually, the story was filled with stereotypes: college professor and the sexy co-ed, the idea of moving to a small town to find oneself, the happy family of a rural small town and many more. The pacing was like watching paint dry. Simply put, it was not what I had hoped when I settled in and opened up the

East Hope really kept my interest throughout the book. In fact, I couldn't put it down. The author's speech was somewhat simplistic, but I felt this was just regional flavor, and I enjoyed it. The characters seemed mostly believable. But then came the last page, which I felt was just such a let-down. It seemed that the writer just got tired of writing and walked away, letting the reader fend

for themselves. It could use another 3 chapters and a different ending. But. . . I'll look for this author again, because with that exception, I enjoyed her writing very much.

very charming story...i could almost smell the fog and sea air in Maine..loved the 2 main characters..only disappointment was the last paragraph.. i felt as if was left hanging over a cliff wondering if the seas were to be calm or stormy in the future..

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