

Shortlisted Book for the 2022-23 Book in Common

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Beth Macy

Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors and the Drug Company that Addicted America

Date: 2018

List price: \$18 paperback

Author website: <https://intrepidpapergirl.com/>

Book website: <https://www.littlebrown.com/titles/beth-macy/dopesick/9780316551304/>

Publisher description:

In this extraordinary work, Beth Macy takes us into the epicenter of a national drama that has unfolded over two decades. From the labs and marketing departments of big pharma to local doctor's offices; wealthy suburbs to distressed small communities in Central Appalachia; from distant cities to once-idyllic farm towns; the spread of opioid addiction follows a tortuous trajectory that illustrates how this crisis has persisted for so long and become so firmly entrenched... From the introduction of OxyContin in 1996, Macy investigates the powerful forces that led America's doctors and patients to embrace a medical culture where overtreatment with painkillers became the norm... Through unsparing, compelling, and unforgettably humane portraits of families and first responders determined to ameliorate this epidemic, each facet of the crisis comes into focus. In these politically fragmented times, Beth Macy shows that one thing uniting Americans across geographic, partisan, and class lines is opioid drug abuse. But even in the midst of twin crises in drug abuse and healthcare, Macy finds reason to hope and ample signs of the spirit and tenacity that are helping the countless ordinary people ensnared by addiction build a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

This book is shortlisted for the 2021-22 Book in Common because

- *It is engaging to students and to a broad audience.* Well-written and researched, this book tackles an issue that is deeply important as our community and country confront an opioid epidemic made considerably more urgent by the COVID-19 pandemic and the pressure put on the healthcare system and first responders.
- *It has broad appeal across disciplines.* This book, with its focus on individuals as well as the healthcare system and pharmaceutical industry, will be relevant to a wide array of disciplines including medicine/nursing, psychology, public health, political science, and legal studies.
- *It is relevant and timely.* Butte County has seen a large rise in deaths from opioids since 2018, and this is true for Chico State's larger service region. This book would open the door for other conversations about addiction, the role of the pharmaceutical industry, as well as the work of the healthcare system, healthcare providers, public health workers, and community activists.
- *It relates to the university mission.* This book is clearly related to our mission to "solve the unprecedented challenges of the 21st century." This book asks tough questions about how we can "create an environment committed to the active pursuit of global engagement, service, social justice, and connectedness."
- *It is conducive to year-long programming.* This book would allow for diverse and urgent conversations. Local public health experts and activists would be invited to contribute.