Beth Macy

Journalist & bestselling author (Factory Man & Truevine) discusses the unraveling of rural America, from the aftermath of globalization to the opioid crisis, the subject of her latest book Dopesick.

Beth Macy is the author of the critically acclaimed and New York Times-bestselling books, *Factory Man*, *Truevine*, and *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America* (2018). Macy serves as an Executive Producer and writer on the acclaimed Hulu limited television series *Dopesick*, which is based on her book.

Growing out of three decades of reporting from the same Virginia communities, as her prior books did, *Dopesick* unpacks the most intractable social problems of our time: the opioid crisis, set against a landscape of job loss, corporate greed and stigma, along with the families and first responders who are heroically fighting back. Overdose deaths are now the equivalent of a jetliner crashing in our country every day, and yet the government response to the epidemic remains, in a word, impotent.

Dopesick is, in many ways, the sequel to Macy's first book, *FACTORY MAN.* It lays out exactly how the jobless "other America" ended up couch-surfing with the likes of surgeon's daughters and civic leaders' kids who fall prey to prostitution, jail, and even death. Tom Hanks describes *Dopesick* as "a deep — and deeply needed — look into the troubled soul of America." Stanford addiction medicine specialist and author Dr. Anna Lembke calls it the first book to capture the

entirety of the epidemic, "with a fast-paced narrative, colorful and inspiring characters, vivid historical detail, and a profound sense of place."

A longtime reporter who specializes in outsiders and underdogs, Macy has won more than a dozen national journalism awards, including a Lukas Prize for Factory Man, multiple shortlist and best-book-of-the-year honors for Truevine, and a Nieman Fellowship for Journalism at Harvard for her newspaper writing.

A frequent speaker, teacher and essayist, Macy has been published in *The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The New Yorker, Oprah magazine*, and *Parade.* Her approach to storytelling: Report from the ground up, establish trust, be patient, find stories that tap into universal truths. Get out of your ZIP code. To do good journalism, be a human first.

Her book, *Raising Lazarus, Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Drug Crisis* (August 2022), focuses on solutions to the opioid crisis and the heroic efforts of frontline workers who are applying harm reduction practices on the streets of America. It also will document the efforts of activists and parents of the dead who are trying to hold the Sackler family accountable for the crisis they helped create.

 Follow her on Twitter @papergirlmacy