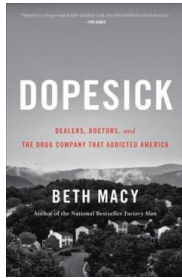




# Community Raving About Books (C.R.A.B.) Book Club Guide



## ***Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America* by Beth Macy**

Little, Brown and Company, 2018; 400 pages/audio 10 hours 30 minutes

“An urgent, eye-opening look at a problem that promises to grow much worse in the face of inaction and indifference.”

–Kirkus Reviews, 6/1/2018

### **Summary**

Beginning with a single dealer who lands in a small Virginia town and sets about turning high school football stars into heroin overdose statistics, journalist Beth Macy endeavors to answer a grieving mother's question -- why her only son died -- and comes away with a harrowing story of greed and need. From the introduction of OxyContin in 1996, Macy parses how America embraced a medical culture where overtreatment with painkillers became the norm. The unemployed use painkillers both to numb the pain of joblessness and pay their bills, while privileged teens trade pills in cul-de-sacs, and even high school standouts fall prey to prostitution, jail, and death. Through unsparing, yet deeply human portraits of the families and first responders struggling to ameliorate this epidemic, each facet of the crisis comes into focus.

### **Author Information**

Beth Macy is the author of the widely acclaimed and bestselling books *Truevine* and *Factory Man*. Based in Roanoke, Virginia for three decades, her reporting has won more than a dozen national awards, including a Nieman Fellowship for Journalism at Harvard.

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*Squeezed: Why Our Families Can't Afford America* by Alissa Quart

*An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It Back* by Elisabeth Rosenthal

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