

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Betsy Hartmann

Email: betsyhartmannbooks@gmail.com

Author website: www.betsyhartmann.com

New Thriller, *Last Place Called Home*, Reveals the Pain and Resilience of a Community Caught Between the Opioid Crisis and War on Drugs

AMHERST, MA, Summer/Fall 2024: Betsy Hartmann's timely new thriller, *Last Place Called Home* (She Writes Press, July 16, 2024), dramatically brings to life the human realities of the nation's opioid crisis. In the hard-pressed mill town of Stanton, Massachusetts, the reader meets some of the people behind the grim statistic that more than 100,000 Americans die annually from drug overdoses. Today one in three U.S. adults knows someone who lost their life this way. Yet the opioid crisis remains shrouded in secrecy and stigma, and harm reduction efforts receive far fewer resources than the floundering war on drugs.

Stanton is a battlefield in the drug war. The local police have been drawn into Operation Snakehead, a covert federal task force targeting the fentanyl trade. As danger mounts, three mothers – newspaper reporter Laura Everett, businesswoman Mimi Sullivan, and machinist Angie Gillen – must confront their pasts and overcome their differences to keep their troubled teenagers out of the crossfire. Help comes from two Stanton cops who break ranks after learning Snakehead's hidden agenda. As Mimi's daughter sinks further into heroin addiction, Laura and Angie's sons try to save her, but their efforts only place her more at risk. Ultimately, the deadly violence threatening the community compels Laura to dig deep within herself for the power to take charge.

A finalist in both the 2024 International Book Awards and 2024 American Fiction Awards, *Last Place Called Home* is a powerful story about resilience, love, and loyalty to family, friends, and place. The natural beauty that surrounds Stanton provides solace and space for healing. *Readers' Favorite* calls the book "a beautiful literary creation with a setting that feels like a character in its own right. Intimacy, love, addiction, and redemption are cleverly developed themes in this thrilling novel." Distributed by Simon & Schuster, *Last Place Called Home* is available in paperback and e-book at Bookshop.org, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other online booksellers, and can be ordered through your local bookstore or library (Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-642-2, E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-643-9).

About Betsy Hartmann:

Betsy Hartmann writes both fiction and nonfiction about critical social issues. She is the author of the feminist classic *Reproductive Rights and Wrong: The Global Politics of Population Control* and of *The America Syndrome: Apocalypse, War, and Our Call to Greatness*. Her previous thrillers, *The Truth about Fire* and *Deadly Election*, explore threats to American democracy. Betsy lives in Amherst, MA, where she is professor emerita of development studies at Hampshire College. For more, visit www.betsyhartmann.com.

###