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Last Place Called Home

A Novel

What holds a community together when powerful forces beyond its control are ripping it apart?

When a federal sting operation targets the fentanyl trade, the small mill town of Stanton, Massachusetts becomes a battlefield in the war on drugs. As stakes rise, reporter Laura Everett joins forces with two other mothers to keep their troubled teenagers out of the deadly crossfire. Help comes from unexpected quarters when two local cops break ranks after learning the operation's real mission.

A fast-paced, multilayered thriller that spotlights the high human costs of the drug war, *Last Place Called Home* is also a story about love and loyalty to family, friends, and place. Stanton is a hard place to live in—but it's an even harder place to leave.

Advance Praise

"Hartmann masterfully brings home the national opioid crisis to a declining town where loyalty is a dangerous concept and no one—even the law—can be trusted. The heartbreaking desperation of its mothers, lovers, and friends will shake your conscience and keep you guessing until the very last page."

—**Marisa Labozzetta, author of *A Day in June***

"A novel about the complexities of love and loyalty... While *Last Place Called Home* offers fresh insights into the tragedies of the drug crisis, it also celebrates the restorative power of nature and the surprising resilience people find within themselves."

—**Corinne Demas, author of *The Road Towards Home* and *The Writing Circle***

"The emotional grip never lets go... intricate and dramatic."

—**Roger King, author of *Love and Fatigue in America* and *The Girl from Zanzibar***

"A beautiful literary creation with a setting that feels like a character in its own right."

—**Readers' Favorite**

Finalist in the 2024 International Book Awards and 2024 American Fiction Awards

Betsy Hartmann addresses critical national and global challenges in her books, articles, and public appearances. She is the author of the feminist classic *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs* and most recently of *The America Syndrome: Apocalypse, War and Our Call to Greatness*. Her previous two political thrillers explore the threat the Far Right poses to American democracy. She is a professor emerita at Hampshire College and lives in Amherst, Massachusetts.

