



# **The Snakehead: An Epic Tale of the Chinatown Underworld and the American Dream**

*Patrick Radden Keefe*

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# The Snakehead: An Epic Tale of the Chinatown Underworld and the American Dream

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**The Snakehead: An Epic Tale of the Chinatown Underworld and the American Dream** Patrick Radden Keefe

In this thrilling panorama of real-life events, Patrick Radden Keefe investigates a secret world run by a surprising criminal: a charismatic middle-aged grandmother, who from a tiny noodle shop in New York's Chinatown managed a multi-million dollar business smuggling people.

Keefe reveals the inner workings of Sister Ping's complex empire and recounts the decade-long FBI investigation that eventually brought her down. He follows an often incompetent and sometimes corrupt INS as it pursues desperate immigrants risking everything to come to America, and along the way, he paints a stunning portrait of a generation of illegal immigrants and the intricate underground economy that sustains and exploits them. Grand in scope yet propulsive in narrative force, *The Snakehead* is both a kaleidoscopic crime story and a brilliant exploration of the ironies of immigration in America.

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

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