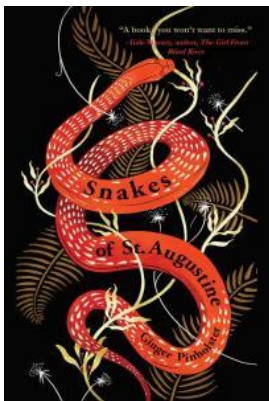


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Ginger Pinholster—Snakes of St. Augustine



Snakes of St. Augustine

SNAKES OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Ginger Pinholster

Regal House Publishing, September 12, 2023

Paperback \$19.95, Kindle \$9.99

ISBN-13: 978-1646033829, ASIN: B0BMGZ53MX

Pinholster reports:

Snakes of St. Augustine describes an unconventional love story served up with a large side of Florida weirdness.

Though fictional, this book was motivated by a real-life tragedy: Jason Harrison, a 39-year-old man living with psychosis, was killed by police after his mother asked for help getting him to a hospital.

The police bodycam footage reminded me of loved ones, including my late brother John. John had a learning disability, attention deficit disorder, trouble communicating, severe anxiety and depression, and in the end, a substance abuse problem. He was 28 when he killed himself.



Ginger Pinholster

Losing my brother to mental illness and subsequently finding a partner who has neurodiversity clearly influenced my writing. In my experience, discrimination can turn those with mental health conditions into “the others.”

To learn more, I read journal and news articles. I spoke with my partner Michele’s doctors as well as my sister, a mental health professional, about schizoaffective disorder. I learned that people living with psychosis are far more likely to be attacked than to attack others. Sadly, many police units lack the training or personnel to safely deal with individuals who have neurodiversity.

In *Snakes of St. Augustine*, the theft of Trina Leigh Dean’s beloved snakes coincides with the disappearance of a troubled young man, Gethin Jacobs. While his sister searches for him, she gains an unlikely accomplice: Jazz, a homeless student. Meanwhile, Trina’s friend Fletch, a burnt-out cop, scours St. Augustine for the stolen snakes. Fletch’s quest puts him on a dangerous collision course with Gethin, raising questions about community and the power of compassion.

Snakes of St. Augustine, was picked up by Regal House Publishing. Named 2021 Independent Publisher of the Year, Regal House accepts unagented queries. Managing Editor Pam Van Dyk provided exceptional insights. I worked briefly with publicist Jackie Karneth of Books Forward.

My novel is not about Jason, John, or Michele; all of my characters are composites, representing the recent trend of fatal encounters between police and individuals with mental health conditions. I hope my work will honor the lives of all those living with neurodiversity and an increased risk of harm.