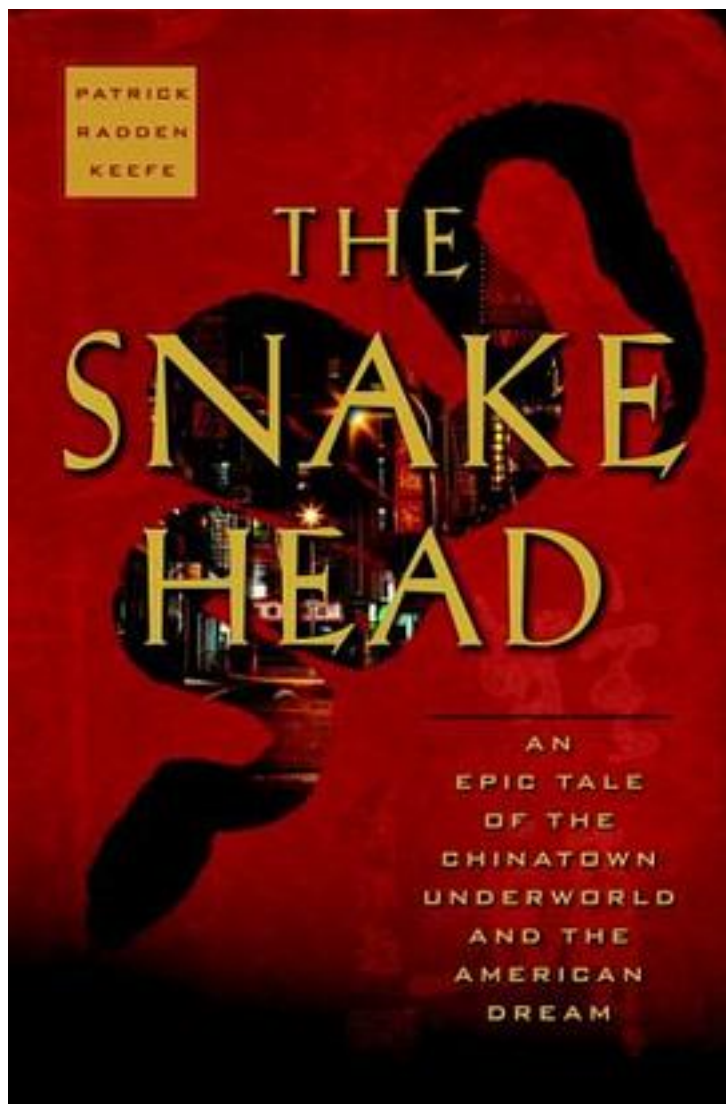


# The Snakehead



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A mesmerizing narrative about the rise and fall of an unlikely international crime boss

In the 1980s, a wave of Chinese from Fujian province began arriving in America. Like other immigrant groups before them, they showed up with little money but with an intense work ethic and an unshakeable belief in the promise of the United States. Many of them lived in a world outside the law, working in a shadow economy overseen by the ruthless gangs that ruled the narrow streets of New York's Chinatown.

The figure who came to dominate this Chinese underworld was a middle-aged grandmother known as Sister Ping. Her path to the American dream began with an unusual business run out of a tiny noodle store on Hester Street. From her perch above the shop, Sister Ping ran a full-service underground bank for illegal Chinese immigrants. But her real business—a business that earned an estimated \$40 million—was smuggling people.

As a “snakehead,” she built a complex—and often vicious—global conglomerate, relying heavily on familial ties, and employing one of Chinatown's most violent gangs to protect her power and profits. Like an underworld CEO, Sister Ping created an intricate smuggling network that stretched from Fujian Province to Hong Kong to Burma to Thailand to Kenya to Guatemala to Mexico. Her ingenuity and drive were awe-inspiring both to the Chinatown community—where she was revered as a homegrown Don Corleone—and to the law enforcement officials who could never quite catch her.

Indeed, Sister Ping's empire only came to light in 1993 when the Golden Venture, a ship loaded with 300 undocumented immigrants, ran aground off a Queens beach. It took New York's fabled “Jade Squad” and the FBI nearly ten years to untangle the criminal network and home in on its unusual mastermind.

THE SNAKEHEAD is a panoramic tale of international intrigue and a dramatic portrait of the underground economy in which America's twelve million illegal immigrants live. Based on hundreds of interviews, Patrick Radden Keefe's sweeping narrative tells the story not only of Sister Ping, but of the gangland gunslingers who worked for her, the immigration and law enforcement officials who pursued her, and the generation of penniless immigrants who risked death and braved a 17,000 mile odyssey so that they could realize their own version of the American dream. The Snakehead offers an intimate tour of life on the mean streets of Chinatown, a vivid blueprint of organized crime in an age of globalization and a masterful exploration of the ways in which illegal immigration affects us all.

[www.doubleday.com](http://www.doubleday.com)

作者介绍:

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## 标签

美国

海外中国研究

纪实

移民

社会

历史

故事

非虚构

## 评论

郑翠萍是臭名昭著的犯罪分子，帮许多中国人实现了美国梦

作者把很猎奇的题材写出了万花筒的效果。这是一部精彩的cult片:惊魂复仇记别墅枪击小老弟，发财美国梦渔船直奔皇后区。这是一副光怪陆离的社会图景:金色冒险号的命运不过《美国悲剧》中德莱赛命运的变体。黑帮与行政权力相互博弈，决定聚居区的命运。作为蛇头的郑翠萍不仅帮助中国人实现了“向上流动”的梦想，而且还反哺家乡成为了最大慈善家。

豆瓣最近删的真是频繁 明明又没说什么别的。书里提到某年之后美帝放松某政策有些帝都官员会收费给想向外走的人拍照做asylum-seeking proof 不确定真实与否但either way都很魔幻 就这么一句就要删掉了？(每章之间不是完全按时间线序 略散且有重复 有声书讲所有的中文名字都很奇怪略distracting 除此之外非常精彩。

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one word: epic.

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副标题说 “An Epic Tale” 。副标题没有说谎。

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从 “金色冒险号” 失事写起，又倒叙回福建的小村子，大姐头郑翠萍一步步帮助村民实现美国梦的同时也赚的盆满钵盈。福清帮果然和意大利黑手党的犯罪模式全然不同，一被抓就和警察全盘托出。最后不禁感慨，世界上最赚钱的活儿真是除了贩毒就是贩人了。文笔水平一流！极具画面感！

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Epic

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福建移民往事，现实比电影精彩得多  
国际刑警去逮郑翠萍的时候，GA局长都让她走，实在牛逼

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## 书评

三个月没写东西了。晚上要带孩子，真是没多少能坐下来时候。即便有，也因为人懒，全是上网、看电影打发了。最近才想来要看看书，也是给儿子作个榜样。另外，这么久没看过什么好书，整天对付的要么是柴米油盐、要么是工作，也有些烦了。所以周五把夏天买来的那本Snakehead拿出...

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