



Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia

By Dennis Covington

Download now

Read Online ➔

Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington

For *New York Times* reporter Dennis Covington, what began as a journalistic assignment—covering the trial of an Alabama pastor convicted of attempting to murder his wife with poisonous snakes—would evolve into a headlong plunge into a bizarre, mysterious, and ultimately irresistible world of unshakable faith: the world of holiness snake handling.

Set in the heart of Appalachia, *Salvation on Sand Mountain* is Covington's unsurpassed and chillingly captivating exploration of the nature, power, and extremity of faith—an exploration that gradually turns inward, until Covington finds himself taking up the snakes.

📄 [Download Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Red ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and R ...pdf](#)

Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia

By Dennis Covington

Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington

For *New York Times* reporter Dennis Covington, what began as a journalistic assignment—covering the trial of an Alabama pastor convicted of attempting to murder his wife with poisonous snakes—would evolve into a headlong plunge into a bizarre, mysterious, and ultimately irresistible world of unshakable faith: the world of holiness snake handling.

Set in the heart of Appalachia, *Salvation on Sand Mountain* is Covington's unsurpassed and chillingly captivating exploration of the nature, power, and extremity of faith—an exploration that gradually turns inward, until Covington finds himself taking up the snakes.

Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #36310 in Books
- Brand: Covington, Dennis
- Published on: 2009-08-11
- Released on: 2009-08-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .75" w x 5.50" l, .66 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

 [Download Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Red ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and R ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia* By Dennis Covington

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Salvation on Sand Mountain is a story of snake handling and strychnine drinking, of faith healing and speaking in tongues. It is also the story of one man's search for his roots--and, in the end, of his spiritual renewal. Writer Dennis Covington came to this ecstatic form of Christianity as a reporter covering a sensational murder case; Glen Summerford, pastor of the Church of Jesus with Signs Following, had been accused of attempting to kill his wife with rattlesnakes. There, in a courtroom filled with journalists and gawking spectators, Covington felt the pull of a spirituality that was to dominate his life for the next several years. Attending Summerford's church out of curiosity, he soon forged close friendships with some of the worshippers, began attending snake-handling services throughout the South, and eventually took up snakes himself.

With subject matter this lurid, *Salvation on Sand Mountain* could have been a Southern-fried curiosity and little more. Covington goes far deeper. Tracing the snake handlers' roots in regional history, in the deep spiritual alienation of mountain people from the secular modern world they have so recently joined, Covington is more than just sympathetic to the snake handlers; in a profound way, he considers himself one of them. His reasoning is sometimes flawed--when he attempts to find snake handlers in his own family's past, for instance, the result is belabored and unconvincing--but there's no doubt that Covington's heart is in the right place. He's also not without his own brand of sly gallows humor, as in this conversation with the elderly Gracie McAllister: "She'd swore she'd never handle rattlesnakes in July again. She'd been bit the previous two Julys. 'I decided I'd just handle fire and drink strychnine that night,' she said. *Good idea*, I thought. It always pays to be on the safe side."

Covington eventually breaks with the snake handlers, but comes away from the experience a changed man. "Knowing where you come from is one thing, but it's suicide to stay there," he writes. An American Book Award winner and finalist for the National Book Award, *Salvation on Sand Mountain* is a nuanced, compassionate portrait of an unforgettable spiritual journey. --*Mary Park*

From Publishers Weekly

After Covington, a writing instructor at the University of Alabama, novelist (Lizard) and freelance journalist, covered the trial of a preacher convicted of attempting to murder his wife with rattlesnakes, he was invited to attend a snake-handling service in Scottsville, Ala. He found the service exhilarating and unsettling; he felt a kinship with the people, for he was only two generations removed from the hill country of Appalachia. Of Scottish-Irish descent, the handlers are religious mystics who believe in demons, drink strychnine and drape rattlesnakes around their bodies. Covington attended other services with Brother Carl Porter; he eventually handled a huge rattlesnake, and recalls that at the time, he felt absolutely no fear. This is a captivating glimpse of an exotic religious sect.

Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Fascinated by the religious practice of snake handling, the author, a novelist and writing instructor at the University of Alabama, relates his association with the Church of Jesus with Signs Following in Scottsboro, Alabama. Working for the New York Times, Covington covered the trial of the church's preacher, who was convicted of attempting to murder his wife with rattlesnakes. Upon discovering this remnant of distinctive Southern culture, the author continues his journalist's involvement with the church, which develops into a

personal spiritual journey. Awed by the faith and daring of the followers, he becomes a participant in their peculiar rituals. Although the author's observations and insights are interesting, this book is only marginally informative. For a more complete study, see Thomas Burton's *Serpent-Handling Believers* (LJ 3/15/93).

Eloise R. Hitchcock, Tennessee Technological Univ. Lib., Cookeville

Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Theodore May:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be change about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe may update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to a person is you don't know which one you should start with. This *Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia* is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Robert Ford:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always try to and must have the spare time or they will get wide range of stress from both everyday life and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not only a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is definitely *Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia*.

Jorge Wilson:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this *Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia* reserve written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written inside good manner for you, leaking every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still hesitation *Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia* as good book not merely by the cover but also from the content. This is one book that can break don't assess book by its deal with, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Benita Newton:

Beside this *Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia* in your phone, it could possibly give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or information. The information and the knowledge you will got here is fresh through the oven so don't be worry if you feel like an outdated

people live in narrow village. It is good thing to have Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia because this book offers for you readable information. Do you oftentimes have book but you do not get what it's about. Oh come on, that wil happen if you have this with your hand. The Enjoyable arrangement here cannot be questionable, just like treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss this? Find this book as well as read it from currently!

Download and Read Online Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington #2L7IFMBT43E

Read Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington for online ebook

Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington books to read online.

Online Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington ebook PDF download

Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington Doc

Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington Mobipocket

Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington EPub

2L7IFMBT43E: Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia By Dennis Covington