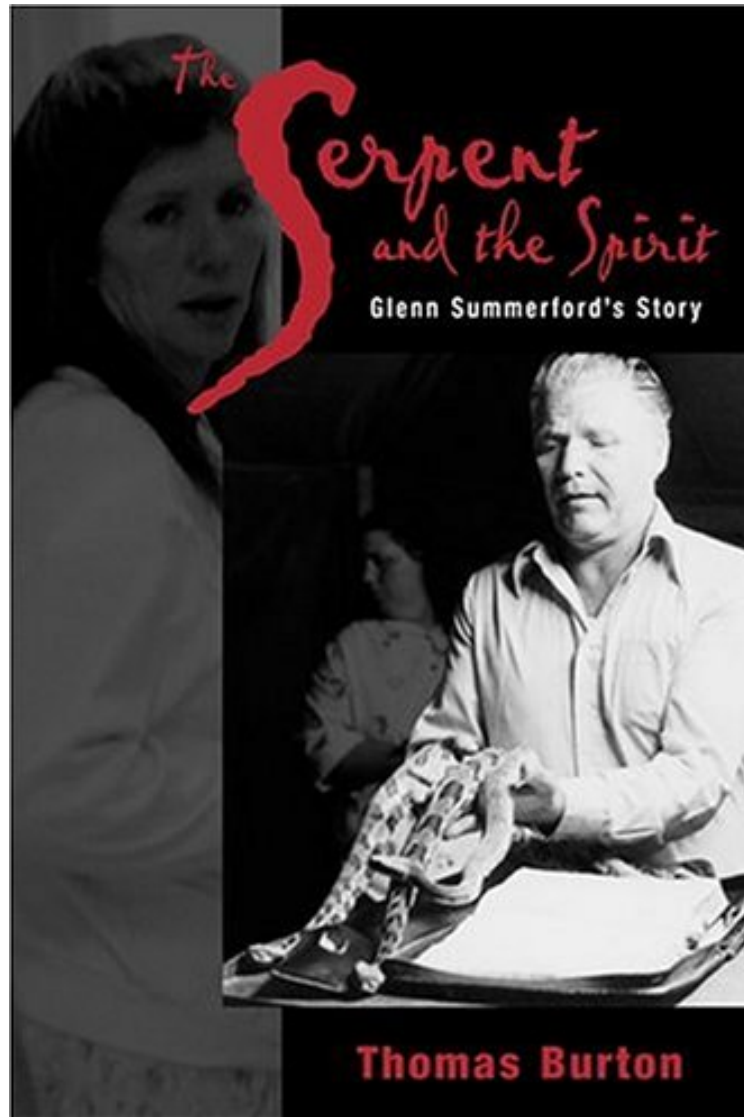


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## The Serpent And The Spirit: Glenn Summerford'S Story

*Thomas Burton*

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#255903 in Books University of Tennessee Press 2004-06-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .60 x 6.00l, .84 #File Name: 1572332468280 pages | File size: 28.Mb

**Thomas Burton : The Serpent And The Spirit: Glenn Summerford'S Story** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Serpent And The Spirit: Glenn Summerford'S Story:

A snake handler convicted of the attempted murder of his wife by means of serpent bite is serving ninety-nine years in prison. The reader is gradually pulled into an increasingly complex story as Thomas Burton allows the many

individuals involved in this event to tell their stories. Readers are less likely to find themselves concerned with what really happened than with larger issues they too will become involved in. This is more than a story about the headline preacher who tried to murder his wife with rattlesnakes! It is a story of individuals struggling with their faith and their fate under the steady gaze of their God. Ralph W. Hood Jr., winner of the American Psychological Association's William James Award in the psychology of religion. In this comprehensive, multilayered set of narratives, the story of Glenn Summerford's fall from grace is told by its participants, through interviews, court documents, and other primary sources. Free of either prejudice against or romanticizing about the snake-handling Holiness religion, this book presents an absorbing story of a fascinating group of people, while allowing the reader to draw his or her own conclusions about Summerford's guilt or innocence. *The Serpent and the Spirit* is a startling commentary on truth and its representation, religion and its expression, humanity and its flaws. Thomas Burton is professor emeritus of English at East Tennessee State University. He is the winner of the Appalachian Consortium Laurel Leaves Award.