

# The teacher who ate her pet ...

*Everybody has a story. These memoirs will motivate you to write yours. The writing tips will show you how to get started. Read the book to enjoy the stories and to get going on your own.*

We are especially lucky that the authors of this volume came together to share their stories, their past, and their art with us. Because in them we find laughter, inspiration, triumph, and tragedy – elements of their lives that you will find, as I did, reflected in your own. And they are truly a pleasure to read.

**From the foreword by Jennifer M. Granholm  
Governor of Michigan**

The life stories in this anthology are testimonies to the resilience of the human spirit. The ages, backgrounds, origins, and sensibilities of these 32 adult writers represent the full spectrum of human experience – from childhood memories to ruminations on life's final moments. These are, each and every one, stories of the hopes and struggles, dreams and sacrifices that link us all as fellow human beings.

Taken as a whole, the stories in this book are fiercely honest, authentic, and deeply moving. Each contributor brings an earned wisdom and perspective to the writing – which, in and of itself, is a major achievement.

The Teacher Who Ate her Pet is a book to be savored by readers of all origins and generations.

**Michael Steinberg**  
**Author of Still Pitching, the 2003 Independent Press Memoir/Autobiography of the Year.**  
**Founding Editor, Fourth Genre: Explorations in Nonfiction**

Goose bumps crept over my body. After what seemed a very long time, I managed to look down at my feet. Two jewel eyes blazing with fiery hatred looked straight at my face. The snake, at least six feet long, had wound himself completely around my ankle, his skin, an arrangement of iridescent bright greens.

My thoughts were very clear and calm.

“This is a green mamba, the deadliest snake in the world. Everyone is gone. No one will hear me if I scream. He is the most beautiful creature I have ever seen. If he bites me, I may live for three minutes.”

**Virginia Wood**  
**“The Snake” from The Teacher Who Ate Her Pet**

