Ben Montgomery Biography

Ben Montgomery is an enterprise reporter for the Tampa Bay Times, founder of the narrative journalism website Gangrey.com and co-founder of the Auburn Chautauqua, a Southern writers collective. He also authored the New York Times bestselling Grandma Gatwood’s Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail, winner of the 2014 National Outdoor Book Award for History/Biography.

Montgomery grew up in Oklahoma and studied journalism at Arkansas Tech University, where he played defensive back for the football team, the Wonder Boys. He worked for the Courier in Russellville, Ark., the Standard-Times in San Angelo, Texas, the Times Herald-Record in New York's Hudson River Valley and the Tampa Tribune before joining the Times, Florida’s leading newspaper, in 2006.

He has written for Seventeen, The Daily Beast, PARADE and Grantland, and his stories have been anthologized in Cornbread Nation VI: The Best of Southern Food Writing and True Crime: Real Life Stories of Abduction, Addiction, Obsession, Murder, Grave-Robbing and More. In 2010, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in local reporting and won the Dart Award and Casey Medal for a series called "For Their Own Good," about abuse at Florida's oldest reform school. He lives in the Old Seminole Heights section of Tampa, Fla., with his wife, Jennifer, and three children.