

**One Woman's Journey From A Childhood Hell To An
Accomplished Life & Writer – A Miraculous Story Of
Triumph, Courage, & Persistence.**

Cry Into the Wind

“Othello Bach is a force. And this book proves it.”

--Joel Grey, Tony Award-winner

“*Cry into the Wind* is a page-turner from beginning to end. It is a compelling story of survival and an inspiring testament to the strength of the human spirit and raw determination.”

--Dave Pelzer, author of *A Child Called It*

“Too often, America is portrayed as fantasyland. *Cry into the Wind* reminds us of the hourly struggle many Americans have to survive and salutes their true grit!”

--Pat Schroeder, former Congresswoman; ex-President, Associations of American Publishers

“*Cry into the Wind* grabs you by the eyeballs and keeps them wide open until the end. As illustrator of four of Othello's books, I'm sure that her hilariously inventive take on life must have helped her overcome many obstacles.”

--Sandy Huffaker, nationally syndicated political cartoonist, award-winning fine artist and illustrator

Othello Bach's debut book, a novel called *House of Secrets*, became a best-seller. Avon Books bought it when she was 24 years old. Her second novel, *Satan's Daughters* was published by Zebra Books two years later and it also became a bestseller. Her first children's book, *Whoever Heard of a Fird?* was another best-seller, as was her second children's book, *Hector McSnector and the Mail-Order Christmas Witch*. Additionally, *Whoever Heard of a Fird?* led to over 100 licensing deals which included a line of toys by Remco and a television development deal with Hanna-Barbera. She also wrote three dozen songs that were recorded by stage and screen stars, including Joel Grey, Tammy Grimes, and Sandy Duncan. It's hard to believe all of this positive, creative, and inspirational content is the product of someone who didn't learn to read until the 8th grade.

It's even harder to believe when you learn how this former minister, licensed hypnotherapist, motivational speaker and advocate for literacy, women, and group home reform almost didn't survive her nightmarish childhood that was defined by loss, neglect, physical and mental abuse, rape, seeing her mother burned alive, sexually violated by her alcoholic dad and left to fend for herself in a group home while separated from her siblings.

Her stirring memoir, *Cry into the Wind*, recently acknowledged by the Indiana Public Library Association as being one of the ten best books, reveals her heartbreaking, yet inspirational story of how she rose out of an against-all-odds childhood, one that left her in a two-day coma after attempting suicide.

Bach has come a long way since her troubled youth. She grew into a successful author of dozens of books, launched a hypnotherapy company for 25 years, taught for over 13 years at two colleges and was an ordained minister for a decade. Along the way she's publicly advocated for women, victims of abuse, literacy and self-improvement. She represents hope in the face of brutal odds against living a happy and successful life.

She is available to discuss:

- The elements of her unique recovery program that helps others grow beyond painful memories.
- What can be done to improve the conditions of group homes (orphanages.).
- How to go from victimhood to taking control of your life.
- How one can rise from poverty and homelessness to succeed.
- How one can go from being illiterate to a best-selling author.
- What the keys to happiness are.

“Everyone has memories that haunt and discourage them,” says Bach. “I want to make them aware of my story and show them how to use their minds more effectively – regardless of their backgrounds.”

Never having read a newspaper and unable to read until her teens, Bach learns to barter for help in exchange for others reading to her. When she discovers the “secret to reading,” she is ecstatic about her new discovery – *that letters have assigned sounds* – and her life is changed forever.

“The thrill of learning to read was surpassed only by the realization that words not only passed information – they created feelings,” says Bach. “With this priceless information I could literally change my life. I could create any emotion and steer my life in the direction I wanted to go – so I used it. Anyone can. Words are power tools that sculpt our future. If we know how to use them we can transform a monstrous life into a beautiful work of art. If we don't, we generally create one monstrosity after another.”

She has many stories to share – as well as life lessons and advice.

“I want people to embrace the message of my breakthrough children's book, which is, that we each need to learn that we can be whatever we want to be, without looking anywhere outside of ourselves.”

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Othello Bach

A Biography

Othello Bach is an accomplished, best-selling author, song writer, and survivor of a childhood of untold loss, abuse, and horror.

Bach, who was illiterate, until the eighth grade, overcame one of the most challenging childhoods ever. She witnessed, at age seven, her mother burn to death. The night following her mother's funeral, her alcoholic father, took her to his bed. Poor, and living out of a truck, her dad abandoned her and her three younger siblings. They were put in an orphanage where they were split up, placed in different dormitories, and never allowed to be together again. At 18, after leaving the orphanage and graduating high school, Bach attempted suicide, ending up in a two-day coma.

She has published over 30 books, including her memoir, *Cry into the Wind*, two best-selling novels, *House of Secrets* (Avon Books) and *Satan's Daughters* (Zebra Books) -- and two bestselling children's books: *Whoever Heard of a Fird?* and *Hector McSnector and the Mail-Order Christmas Witch*. (Caedmon Books).

Bach's also published hundreds of articles, stories, and columns in the *Orange County Register*, *The Looking Glass*, *The Long Beach Press Telegram*, *The Orange County News-Times*, *The Kokomo Tribune* and in magazines that included *Child Life*, *Ellery Queen*, *Alfred Hitchcock*, *True Love*, and *Jack & Jill*.

For two decades she held over 600 workshops on Secrets of Successful Writers, and for 10 years she made over 200 speaking appearances at hotels, churches, and community centers about life after trauma and abuse for 17 years she made 230 presentations, Body Designing, a weight-loss program that uses hypnosis.

Some of her media appearances include *The Joe Franklin Show* on WOR and *The Jim Lehrer Show*, both radio.

Bach taught creative writing at the University of California for five years, and at Cypress College in California for 13 years. She also owned and operated a successful hypnotherapy clinic for 25 years and worked with hundreds of clients, using hypnosis to help them overcome a variety of problems and challenges

Bach was a minister for a decade, pastoring her first church in Tustin, California.

She also worked for three years with Vietnam veterans at the Anaheim Vet Center in Anaheim, California. She continues to write every day, composing music, and recently has illustrated two of her latest children's books: *Albert and the Monster* and *Frickart the Different*. She is a tireless advocate for literacy, human rights, and speaks out for reform of group homes – the same homes that were once called orphanages.

She now resides in Kokomo, Indiana. She has two sons, and was the legal guardian of a niece and nephew. They are all adults now and she considers them all “her kids.”

For more information, please consult: www.othellobach.com.

Othello Bach

Q&A

1. **You witnessed your mother being burned alive. Your alcoholic dad sexually assaulted you. In an orphanage, you suffered untold abuse and mistreatment. You experienced homelessness. Eventually, you attempted suicide. What sustained your spirit?** Memories of my mother's love and eternal optimism. She said if I want something bad enough I can have it, and I still believe it.
2. **Othello, you have had one of the most challenging and troubling childhoods anyone has endured. How did you manage to overcome this rough start to become a successful writer, pastor, teacher and hypnotherapist?** When I taught myself to read and realized that the words were affecting my emotions – I knew I had stumbled on a truth I could use to control my life.
3. **How does someone who couldn't write or read until the eighth grade manage to pen so many books? How can we improve literacy in our country?** I did it because I loved doing it. I love to work out plots... develop the characters and let them speak, interact and perform for me. That's what makes me happy, so it wasn't hard. How to improve literacy? It needs funding! Literacy programs generally operate on donations, fundraisers, and by scrambling for grants. This is a sad situation because so many children are dyslexic.
4. **Othello, you are an accomplished author of many books, including a successful line of children's books. What is your newest one about, *Frickart the Different*?** Frickart is frog who is bullied because he's different. He stands, walks, sings, eats berries and wears a vest of flowers. He is also practical; he remains kind but doesn't try to change himself to please others.
5. **What lessons will children learn from this colorful story?** Most kids feel different in some way. Hopefully, Frickart will show them that it's *okay* to be different— and you must be true to yourself if you want to be happy.
6. **Your debut children's book, *Whoever Heard of a Fird?* was a best-seller and over 100 licensing agreements grew out of it. Did you ever expect people to react so favorably to it?** When I first wrote it, I did; but after years of rejection slips I had my doubts. After seven years of rejections, I wrote music and lyrics for it, and liked it even better. It still took three more years to sell it, and I was thrilled.
7. **Why do you feel its message resonates with so many young readers?** I've heard that every kid, at one time or another, suspects they were sent home from the hospital with the wrong parents. Maybe that was it: the kids identified with Fird.
8. **How would you reform the group home system to ensure the abuse you suffered doesn't happen again?** Today there are 600,000 kids "lost" in group homes. I have a list of "shoulds" that need to be implemented, including some federal oversight of privately (church) funded

homes. In most cases, a driver's license and GED are all it takes to be hired as a "houseparent" for a dormitory of frightened, abandoned children.

9. **You served as a pastor for over a decade. How did faith play a role in rehabilitating your life?** My rehab began when I sold my first novel to Avon Books and started to believe in myself. I've always been a deeply spiritual person and eventually I felt compelled to attend a seminary and try to help others.
10. **What tips or advice do you have for others who are struggling with their life?** Defend yourself with thoughts you love and make you happy. The past is a memory kept alive by choice. The future is nonexistent—an illusion that changes with mere thought. Don't be afraid to take control in the present.
11. **Among your talents, you are a composer and a lyricist with 37 recorded songs by Broadway, TV and Hollywood stars. What was it like to hear Joel Grey, Tammy Grimes and Sandy Duncan sing your words?** It was glorious! I had the privilege of being in the studio when my work was recorded. At one point, Joel Grey asked me to sing along with him. As I went to him, for the first-and-only time in my life, I thought, "Momma, can you see me now?"
12. **Your children's books spark the imagination of parents as well as children. How did you develop this talent despite the barrage of loss, pain, and conflict in your early life?** I can take no credit for the talent; it is a gift. I just use it, and by doing that, it developed on its own.
13. ***Cry into the Wind*, a Dickensian tale of triumph over tragedy, reveals your story in great detail. What do you hope readers will come away with?** The understanding that *thought* has power. Thought controls emotion, emotion creates conviction, conviction prompts action, and action produces results.
14. **Can you tell us about the unique recovery program you developed, where you help others grow beyond painful memories?** It's a 30-day program included in *Cry into the Wind*, and sold separately on Amazon as "The Happiness Option." It gives readers the opportunity to experience the power of their thoughts.
15. **As a mom - and as someone with a traumatized childhood - what advice do you have for parents today in terms of how to raise happy, healthy, successful children?** Children imitate their parents. Be loving and gentle so they will be. Don't blame others for the ugly emotions you create—especially not your children. By accepting your responsibility to control yourself, you teach your children how to do it.

Keys To Happiness After Trauma

by Othello Bach

- The power of love that helps you overcome the effects of painful experiences is eternal. It cannot be taken from you, but you can forget you have it. Love cannot be felt until it is given away – and with every thought you think, you are “giving” either love or fear to yourself and everyone around you.
- Love will always rescue you if you remember to use it, but it cannot rescue you if you choose to remember pain and fear, instead.
- God is love. Love is always with us and willing to help if we remember to use it.
- The past cannot hurt you unless you choose to remember it.
- Memories have no power over you; they cannot alter your decision.
- Every thought creates a corresponding emotion – so think encouraging thoughts!
- There are two thought categories: love and fear. Thoughts that make you happy and create a sense of well-being are *loving*; thoughts that hurt and create doubt are fear-based and will undermine your success.
- You have a choice between thoughts. Choose wisely.
- You cannot control others, situations, circumstances, the past, or the future – nor do you need to. You only need to control your responses to them.
- Pain is an effect created by something that has already happened. What has happened is in the past. All pain is in the past unless we bring it into our present thoughts. Present thoughts of past pain create present pain.
- Fear is created by thinking of something that might happen in the future. Fear cannot exist in the present unless we are presently thinking fearful thoughts.
- Fearful thoughts will immobilize you. Replace them immediately with encouraging thoughts.
- What you believe creates the reality you experience.
- Denying yourself happiness does not make you “good,” it makes you and everyone around you miserable.
- There is a Power within you that is sufficient to overcome all obstacles. It doesn’t care what you call it, but it is there and it responds to love – your loving thoughts, your loving your life, your loving others, your loving your dreams and pursuing them. If you will remember to love your life, family, friends, the day, your work – love will empower you, and soon you will love all that you have accomplished. You will also love the truth that you – and only you – control your life.

