

OFFICIAL PRESS BIOS FOR FAITH ADIELE  
(SCROLL DOWN FOR DIFFERENT LENGTHS)

The Full Story:

Author, speaker and teacher Faith Adiele—the *original* Obama—has appeared on National Public Radio; in a television ad for a national insurance company; on the Tavis Smiley show; in “A Day in the Life of Faith Adiele” (a 2-page center spread in *Pink Magazine*); and as the subject of a PBS documentary. Her writings on spirituality, travel, and culture have been published in periodicals like *Yes!*, *Essence* and *O: The Oprah Magazine*. Named as one of *Marie Claire* magazine’s “5 Women to Learn From,” Faith has been the keynote or featured speaker at universities, churches and community centers around the world.

The daughter of a Nordic-American mother and Nigerian father, Faith was raised as the sole Black girl in a small farming community in Washington State and attended Harvard University on scholarship. After flunking out of college, she shaved her head and moved into the forests of Southeast Asia, becoming the first black Buddhist nun of Thailand. Her memoir about this experience, *Meeting Faith* (W.W. Norton & Co.), received the PEN Beyond Margins Award for Best Memoir. After returning to and graduating from Harvard, Faith traveled to Nigeria to meet her father and siblings for the first time, a trip that inspired the PBS documentary, *My Journey Home*, as well as the ebook, *The Nigerian-Nordic Girl's Guide To Lady Problems*, a witty, tricultural look at black women and fibroids.

A graduate of the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop and the Nonfiction Writing Program, Faith is co-editor *Coming of Age Around the World: A Multicultural Anthology* (The New Press). She has been honored by a UNESCO International Artists Bursary (Italy); *Best American Essays* shortlist; the Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada); the Sacatar Foundation (Brasil); the Yaddo Corporation; the MacDowell Colony; the Millennium Award from *Creative Nonfiction*; the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation; and PEN New England.

Faith teaches at VONA: Summer Workshops for Writers of Color and The San Francisco Writers’ Grotto, and is Associate Professor in Creative Nonfiction at California College of the Arts in the Bay Area, where is completing *Twins*, an epic memoir about her heritage that will complete the story begun in the PBS film. Visit her at <http://adiele.com>.

3-Paragraph Bio (310 words):

FAITH ADIELE was born in rural America to a Nigerian father and Nordic-American mother, and the PBS film *My Journey Home* documents her travel to Nigeria to find her father and siblings. She holds a BA in Southeast Asian Studies from Harvard University, an MA in Creative Writing from Lesley University, and MFAs in Fiction and Nonfiction from the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

Her memoir about becoming the first black Buddhist nun of Thailand, *Meeting Faith* (W.W. Norton), received the PEN Beyond Margins Award for Best Memoir.

The *original* Obama, Adiele has appeared on National Public Radio; in a television pilot for a new reality program and an ad for a national insurance company; on the Tavis Smiley show; and in “A Day in the Life of Faith Adiele” (a 2-page center spread in *Pink Magazine*). Her writings on spirituality, travel, and culture have been widely anthologized; she is author of the ebook, *The Nigerian-Nordic Girl’s Guide To Lady Problems*, and co-editor of *Coming of Age Around the World: A Multicultural Anthology* (The New Press). Named as one of *Marie Claire* magazine’s “5 Women to Learn From,” Faith has been the keynote or featured speaker at universities, churches and community centers around the world.

Her honors include the Millennium Award from *Creative Nonfiction* and 15 residencies in 5 countries, including a UNESCO International Artists Bursary to Italy, the Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada); the Sacatar Foundation (Brasil); the Yaddo Corporation (USA); and the MacDowell Colony (USA). A contributor to *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *Yes!*, *Essence*, and *Transition*, Adiele is Associate Professor in Creative Nonfiction at California College of the Arts in the Bay Area and a member of The San Francisco Writers’ Grotto, where she is completing *Twins*, a memoir about her heritage that will complete the story begun in the PBS film. Visit her at <http://adiele.com>.

## 2-Paragraph Bio (210 words):

The *original* Obama, FAITH ADIELE is the author of *The Nigerian-Nordic Girl’s Guide To Lady Problems* (Shebooks), and *Meeting Faith* (W.W. Norton), a memoir about becoming Thailand’s first black Buddhist nun, which received the PEN Beyond Margins Award for Best Memoir of 2005; writer/narrator/subject of *My Journey Home* (PBS), a documentary film about growing up with a Nordic-American mother and then traveling to Nigeria as an adult to find her father and siblings; and editor of the international anthology, *Coming of Age Around the World* (New Press).

Named as one of *Marie Claire* magazine’s “5 Women to Learn From,” Adiele, who was educated at Harvard University and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, has been featured on NPR; in a pilot for a new reality show; in a national television ad; on the Tavis Smiley show; and in “A Day in the Life of Faith Adiele” (a 2-page center spread in *Pink Magazine*). A contributor to *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *Essence*, and *Transition*, Adiele is Associate Professor in Creative Nonfiction at California College of the Arts in the Bay Area and a member of The San Francisco Writers’ Grotto, where she is completing *Twins*, a memoir that will finish the story begun in the PBS film. Visit her at <http://adiele.com>.

## 1-Paragraph Bio – Option A (90 words):

Educated at Harvard University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, FAITH ADIELE is the author of *The Nigerian-Nordic Girl's Guide To Lady Problems* (Shebooks) and *Meeting Faith* (W.W. Norton), a memoir about becoming Thailand's first black Buddhist nun, which won the PEN Beyond Margins Award for Best Memoir; writer/narrator/subject of *My Journey Home* (PBS), a documentary film about growing up with a Nordic-American mother and then traveling to Nigeria as an adult to find her father and siblings; and editor of the international anthology, *Coming of Age Around the World* (New Press).

**I-Paragraph Bio –Option B (92 words):**

FAITH ADIELE is the author of *The Nigerian-Nordic Girl's Guide To Lady Problems* (Shebooks) and *Meeting Faith* (W.W. Norton), which won the PEN Beyond Margins Award for Best Memoir; writer/narrator/subject of *My Journey Home*, a PBS documentary about family, travel and identity; and co-editor of *Coming of Age Around the World: A Multicultural Anthology* (The New Press). A graduate of Harvard University, the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and the Iowa Nonfiction Writing Program, she teaches nonfiction around the world and has written for periodicals like *Yes!*, *Marie Claire*, and *O: The Oprah Magazine*.

**I-Paragraph Bio –Option C (82 words):**

FAITH ADIELE is author of *The Nigerian-Nordic Girl's Guide To Lady Problems* and *Meeting Faith*, which won the PEN Beyond Margins Award for memoir; writer/narrator/subject of *My Journey Home*, a PBS documentary about her mixed family; and editor of *Coming of Age Around the World: A Multicultural Anthology*. She teaches at VONA: Summer Workshops for Writers of Color, California College of the Arts (CCA) and The San Francisco Writers' Grotto. She is completing *TWINS*, an epic family memoir. Visit her at <http://adiele.com>.