

# That Bird Has My Wings

The Autobiography of an Innocent Man on Death Row

By Jarvis Jay Masters



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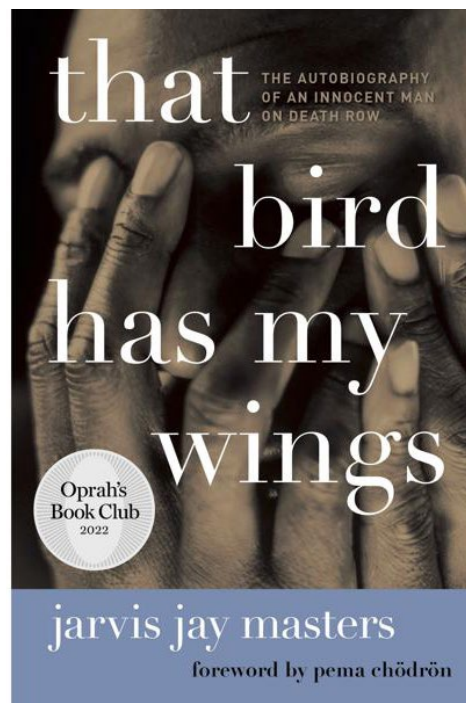
The moving memoir of a Death-Row inmate who discovers Buddhism and becomes an inspirational role model for fellow inmates, guards, and a growing public.

In 1990, while serving a sentence in San Quentin for armed robbery, Jarvis Masters was implicated as an accessory in the murder of a prison guard. A 23-year-old African-American, Jarvis was sentenced to death in the gas chamber. While in the maximum security section of Death Row, using the only instrument available to him—a ball-point pen filler—Jarvis has written an astounding memoir that is a testament to the tenacity of the human spirit and the talent of a fine writer.

Offering us scenes from his life that are at times poignant, revelatory, frightening, soul-stirring, painful, funny and uplifting, *That Bird Has My Wings* tells the story of the author's childhood with parents addicted to heroin, an abusive foster family, a life of crime and imprisonment, and the eventual embracing of Buddhism. Master's story drew the attention of luminaries in the world of American Buddhism, including Pema Chodron, who wrote a story about him for O Magazine and offers a Foreword to the book.

Twenty-two years after his conviction, Masters is still on Death Row—but things have changed. The California Supreme Court has ordered an investigation into whether newly discovered evidence points to his innocence, which could result in the overturn of Jarvis's conviction and death sentence. A growing movement of people believe Masters is innocent, and are actively working within the legal system to free him.

An inmate at San Quentin since he was 19, **Jarvis Jay Masters** was moved to death row in 1990 for alleged participation in the killing of a prison guard. Masters was converted to Buddhism several years later and has inspired the interest of leaders in the American Buddhist community. He is the author of *Finding Freedom*, along with many newspaper and magazine articles. In 1992, Masters won a PEN Award for his poem, "Recipe for Prison Pruno."



#### SPECIFICATIONS:

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