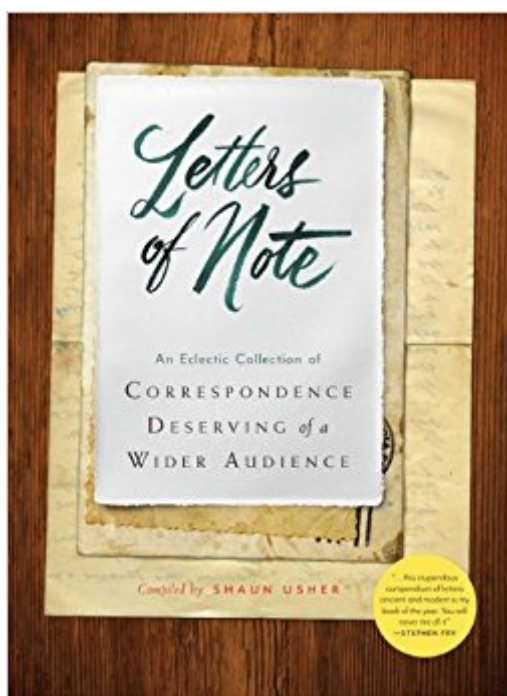


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# Letters Of Note: An Eclectic Collection Of Correspondence Deserving Of A Wider Audience



## Synopsis

This spectacular collection of more than 125 letters offers a never-before-seen glimpse of the events and people of history—the brightest and best, the most notorious, and the endearingly everyday. Entries include a transcript of the letter; a short contextual introduction; and, in 100 cases, a captivating facsimile of the letter itself. The artfulness of Shaun Usher's eclectic arrangement creates a reading experience rich in discovery. Mordant, hilarious, poignant, enlightening—surprise rewards each turn of the page. Colorfully illustrated with photographs, portraits, and relevant artworks, this handsome hardcover is a visual treat too, making *Letters of Note* an utterly distinctive gift, and an instant classic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review "Based on the blog of the same name, this collection of letters is so handsome that it looks like a coffee-table book, but it's more than that. In it, Queen Elizabeth II sends a note to President Dwight D. Eisenhower reflecting on Mamie and Ike's visit to Balmoral Castle: she appends her recipe for scones. The chairman of the Whitehall Vigilance Committee receives a package with a note from Jack the Ripper accompanied by half a human kidney, pickled in wine: "I fried and ate it was very nice." Gandhi appeals to Hitler as the only one who can avert the impending war. Bank robber Clyde Barrow tells Henry Ford he only drives Fords. Francis Crick alerts his son about DNA. A wife writes to her samurai husband on the eve of battle (he died in the fighting, she committed suicide) and an ex-slave addresses his former master. This treasure trove of

fascinating material includes more than 125 letters from both the famous and the unknown dating as far back as 1340 BCE, many reproduced in facsimile. A beautiful collection that should appeal to everyone. Start reading it and you're lost. " - Library Journal holiday Gift Guide Pick "Usher has been showcasing epistles on his website for years; now 125 of his favorites, written by the likes of Katherine Hepburn, Fidel Castro and Richard Feynman, are gathered in this incomparable compendium of human relationships and emotion." - Time Out NY Holiday Gift Guide Pick "Shaun Usher's glorious selection of letters from writers, royalty, rock stars and ordinary citizens, makes you yearn to find a witty handwritten or typed missive in your mailbox. Drawn from the blog of the same name, this lovely volume combines photographs, transcriptions and commentary. " - Newsday "An eloquent tribute to the lost art of letter writing." GQ magazine (UK) "While a good portion of history happened out in the open, allowing it to be preserved in the history books for everyone to read for generations, still more happened in the private correspondence of people who mattered. In Letters of Note: An Eclectic Collection of Correspondence Deserving of a Wider Audience (brought to you by the creator of the blog by the same name) you'll read letters spanning across centuries, from influential political leaders, authors, actors, murderers, and more. Each one lends a unique insight into the major events of the time, whether they're wars, cultural shifts, key moments, or important discoveries. This epistolary compilation contains over 300 letters, detailing the personal thoughts of everyone from Jack the Ripper to Kurt Vonnegut." - Uncrate "This new book beautifully highlights fascinating letters ... The hardcover demands prime space on the coffee table." USA Today's Pop Candy "Someone should write a love letter to a new book called Letters of Note. It's a splendid collection of all kinds of correspondence through the ages: Elvis Presley fans writing to the president, children making suggestions to famous cartoonists, a scientist's poignant love letter to his late wife." - A Way With Words "Reading through them is addictive, like dipping into a bag of variously tempting assorted candies, knowing that the next one will always bring surprise and pleasure. " - The New Yorker "It's the kind of book you'll go back to again and again, and find something new every time. It's a celebration of what makes us human, and gathered together, they have a powerful effect. If nothing else, it will make you want to jot down a letter of your own." - Yakima Herald "It is a truly beautiful book." - The Bookseller (UK) "Every single epistle in Letters of Note is soul-stretching beyond measure." - Brain Pickings "While some might argue that the art of correspondence died with the advent of the internet, it was Letters of Note - a popular website sharing correspondence across history and spheres - that paved the way for the exceptional hardcover of the same name. The book's introduction aptly describes itself as "a museum of letters" that are as addictive as they are enlightening; featuring letters from Ernest Hemingway, Fidel

Castro, Nick Cave, Elvis and more than a few world leaders. London-based author Shaun Usher compiled the collection of over 125 letters over the course of four years and the subjects span both private and public theatrics. A letter from Elvis Presley to President Nixon is written in-flight on American Airlines stationery, in which Presley expresses his patriotism and requests to be made a Federal Agent, "just so long as it is kept very private." Each of the letters is accompanied with a contextual note from Usher that only serves to add to the fascination and potential rabbit hole of additional research readers might find themselves falling into. From art to music, politics, history, civil rights and drawing on just about every human emotion, it's easy to get lost in the 342-page tome. Each letter tells its own stories and it is easy to find oneself interested in new subjects. Perhaps the book's greatest virtue (and that of correspondence itself) is its ability to inject individual humanity into historical events and time periods. One highlight is a letter from a free slave to his former master, kindly rejecting an offer of a job while inquiring about the family and describing his new life. These true stories-whether they're between household names or persons unknown-reflect the great importance of interpersonal communication and the beauty of long-form written conversation." - Cool Hunting "Letters of Note' has been my favorite summer book, full of the kinds of letters I hope to find in my own mailbox, but rarely, these days, ever do." -The Advocate "...an anthology of Shaun Usher's wonderful blog of the same name. It's well worth picking up." Quartz "...a stupendous collection of memorable missives, often by famous people - and with facsimiles, each page is a marvel...Letters of Note is quite literally the most enjoyable volume it is possible to imagine." -The Spectator (UK)

Shaun Usher founded the blog-based archive Letters of Note, hugely popular internationally. He lives in Manchester, England.

I bought both Letters and Lists of Note as a Christmas present for my mother-in-law, and when they arrived I couldn't help myself and began to read. I've been reading eBooks on the main for a while, and everything about these books was enthralling - the library-book smell, the feel of the heavy stock pages, and the gorgeous dust jackets. And the content, so thoughtfully curated... once I started reading, I couldn't stop. Unable to part with them, I have ordered another copy of each to wrap up and give away, and am keeping these copies for myself. There is something for everyone here, so my recommendation is to do what I did - buy a copy for yourself, and one for someone you love.

Oh, no! Oh, no! I just finished reading Letters of Note, and now I don't know what to do with my life. I have been so immersed the last few days in this extraordinary book that I actually feel quite lost now. The letters Shaun Usher has compiled range from funny to heartbreaking, from silly to wise, from confounding to enlightening. There could have been a thousand letters here and I still would not have tired of reading. I cannot wait for his next compilation to come out. In the meantime, I will peruse his website, Letters of Note, to see if I can find more wonderful letters from personalities famous and obscure. Thank you, Mr. Usher, for giving us such an amazing experience!

Shaun Usher did not select a single letter for this compilation that was not worth my time to read. Even when the letter seemed as if it would be too long (as with Lucy Thurston to her daughter), the time spent reading it was worth every second and more. (Stoics Marcus Aurelius and Seneca had nothing on her). Here are the joys, sufferings, accomplishments, setbacks and every other human condition and emotion captured in a single collection. Each one is like receiving a letter of one's own, with that same precious quality. Some are funny, others tragic, but not a page was wasted. Usher also wrote brief but pithy, well-written introductions to the writers and circumstances of each letter.

This book is wonderful! I got it as a gift for a friend, and when I started reading it before I gift-wrapped it, I realized that I had to then go immediately buy a copy for myself because it's so interesting. It is full of letters written by all sorts of famous people from many different periods of time. It even includes a copy of the actual original hand written letter, plus a typed version of the letter so it is easier to read, in case you can't read the hand writing very well. Many of the letters also include a back story to provide more information. There is a letter from Fidel Castro written when he was 12 years old, to the president. That one blew me away. When I have a friend come to visit, if they pick this book up from my coffee table, they just can't put it down. I highly recommend this book for a gift, and also for you. It is so much fun to read and very interesting.

Unique concept, presented with excellence. The correspondence is varied, a mix of delightful, heartwarming, thought-provoking, refreshing, startling, appalling. Altogether OUTSTANDING! If you love the thought of reading quirky communications from famous people, I recommend it as your primary coffee table book to dip into again and again and share with guests. This book runs the gamut from a note from Queen Elizabeth to President Eisenhower giving him her recipe for drop scones to a letter from Jack the Ripper (accompanied by a box containing a small slice of one of his

victims) to the chairman of the citizens' vigilance committee looking for the "Whitechapel murderer"--and that's just the first two letters!

Today, I received my copy of *Letters of Note*, compiled by Shawn Usher. True to its title, this master piece contained missives that communicated a myriad of emotions, raised pertinent questions and advised the ones in need. If first impressions are truly the best impressions, merely by ripping the package open and holding the book you could feel the beauty of the words that are contained within. The cover design was perfect - crisp, clean and minimalistic. The typography lends a rich grandeur which these letters of note truly deserve and needless to say, it evokes the emotions that come with holding a hard cover. As a reader, I cannot but applaud the efforts of Shawn and his team in putting together this master piece of eclectic correspondance. Every page has been chiseled with utmost craft that sings hymns of reverence about the words that were residing in them. Within a couple of hours, I had lived through the sorrow of a royal queen about to breathe her last, felt my blood go cold reading the letter titled "From Hell" by Jack the Ripper and smiled at the relevance of reading Hunter S Thompson's thoughts. Some of these letters, whose originals have been printed along with are the closest one can get to a time travel portal. A few vertical scrolls of my eye balls and voila!, I was there in the late 1800s, right next to Virginia Woolf as she continued to fight the losing battle with her schizophrenia. Science still has a long way to go, in terms of mimicking the power of human imagination. Upon reading this work, one cannot help but think even though we as humanity have progressed in leaps and bounds in terms of technology and life style, have lost out a lot in the art of truly communicating and asking questions that makes us think long, hard, deep and all other attributes alike. I recommend this piece of art for one who loves to think about anything and everything, a someone who loves history, nature of existence and all things that come with it. In the coming years, we can only hope that the efforts towards unearthing such priceless treasures continue. Until then let us savor these crown jewels - they don't make many like these nowadays. As published by me on <https://medium.com/@thambinator/letters-of-note-a-review-after-an-initial-indulgence-7a70d7700b30>

This is a wonderful book that I will re-read many times. I have given several of them as gifts to well-read friends of mine, and they've all loved it. Usher did a great job of including a copy the original letter in the authors' handwriting, and then a deciphering of the writing (especially helpful for

the writings of those with less than perfect penmanship.

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