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# ALPHABETTY

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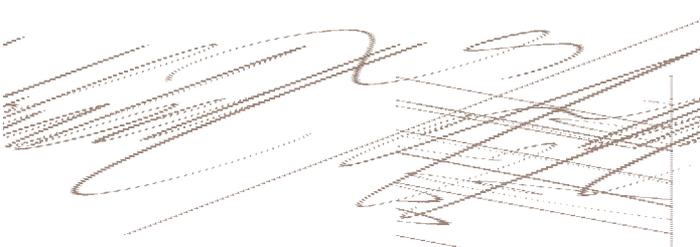
The Alphabetty is a collection of letters that carry my calligraphic style. This is unique to me, and as you adapt the alphabet to nurture your own hand, the letters will become unique and true to you.

Up until the Renaissance in the 1400s, penmanship essentially used no loops or joins. This began to change when Italic penmanship became more popular (in this instance, 'Italic' means 'in the style of ancient Italy', not the slanted type we call *italic* today). In order to enhance writing speed, the letters in the handwriting of the Renaissance were joined, with fewer pen lifts. Cursive (meaning writing joined together in a flowing manner, especially to make writing faster) comes from the Medieval Latin *curvius*, which literally means to run or hasten.

Calligraphy is having a modern renaissance of its own. Although I revere classical script styles, where the aim is uniformity and perfection, my personal style is looser, more spontaneous and constantly changing. 'Modern Calligraphy' as we know it today is cursive and almost always slanted, taking the lead from American forms of writing, although my own calligraphy is straight rather than slanted. I am thrilled there is a return to the art of handwriting as an act of self-exploration and generosity of spirit, wishing to share thoughts and ideas and love notes through a physical missive.

**THE BEAUTY IS THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG WHEN DEVELOPING YOUR OWN CONTEMPORARY STYLE, IT'S ABOUT BEING OPEN-MINDED AND TRYING OUT DIFFERENT WAYS OF WRITING.**

You do need to embrace some basic forms before you can set them free with a flamboyant curl, so try out different fountain or cartridge pens until you find one that feels right to you. I recommend you choose one where the ink flows smoothly with a light hand-held grip and light touch on the paper so as to minimise muscle fatigue and cramping. Like everything, we need to exercise muscles to become better.



» VARIETY IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL AND THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT WAYS OF FORMING LETTERS

← A printed leather 'just in case' pen holder, a collaboration with Edition Poshette, carries my Alphabetty A to Z.

Before we begin, have patience with yourself and what you are embracing. Everyone's process is different, so take the time to figure out what works best for you. I will give you some tips on different ways to create letterforms, but there's actually no right or wrong in creativity; what you are developing is curiosity, potential, expressiveness and growth. Copy as much as you need to from my modern script and visual references, trace over the grey letters directly on the pages as a guide, or overlay each page with half an A4 sheet of tracing paper to allow yourself to go over the letters again and again. But don't limit yourself just to copying. Once you have tried 'my' way a few times and your confidence and skills develop, you will start to write more like 'you' and establish your own style. Practice will develop your confidence and curiosity. You will become faster and stronger, it will become easier and you will learn to appreciate your quirks. Feel the spark of creative energy in you and bring a touch of personal magic into the every day.

## WRITING IS THINKING THROUGH YOUR FINGERTIPS

The creative process is the inspiration. You are here, you are on your way. You've been called to adventure. Use the shape of my letters as a base to introduce variations into your own writing – they will feel forced to begin with as they are a new way of thinking through your fingertips, and your mind will want you to continue doing things as you have always done them.

**MOVING FORWARDS WILL BE SO MUCH MORE ABOUT LETTING GO THAN ABOUT CONTROL.**

You will discover along the journey that you can do something you didn't realise you were capable of, and the more you do it, the more you can do it. Practice doesn't make perfect, it makes progress – at your own pace, in your own way.

'You are your own teacher.

Looking for teachers can't solve your own doubts.

Investigate yourself to find the truth – inside, not outside.

Knowing yourself is most important.

The heart is the only book worth reading.'

(Ajahn Chah)

## LET'S BEGIN...

**MY A TO Z LETTERS ARE NOT ABOUT ACADEMIC PERFECTION, BUT RATHER OPEN YOU UP TO NEW WAYS OF WRITING.**

**LOOK CLOSELY AT MY BLACK LETTER VARIATIONS THROUGHOUT: THEY PROGRESS FROM LINEAR TO MORE WHIMSICAL. MANY MODERN CALLIGRAPHY GUIDES GIVE YOU ARROWS TO SHOW WHERE TO START AND CONTINUE THE LETTER. I OCCASIONALLY GIVE A STAR (\*) AS AN INDICATION OF A STARTING POINT, GIVING YOU THE FREEDOM TO WORK OUT WHATEVER FEELS BEST FOR YOU.**

**TRACE OVER THE GREY VERSIONS, THEN REPEAT EACH ONE ON EACH PAGE, CONTINUING ON SEPARATE PIECES OF PAPER UNTIL THEY BECOME MORE FAMILIAR TO YOU...**

A A

A A

A A

A A

A A

A A

a a a a a

a a a a a

B B

B B

B B

B B

B B

b b

b b

b b

b b

P P

P P

P P

P P

P P

p p

p p

p p

p p

THESE TWO LETTERS, **B & P**, HAVE LOTS OF SIMILARITIES IN THEIR ANATOMY

★ ALPHA = THE FIRST LETTER OF THE GREEK ALPHABET TRANSLITERATED AS 'A'  
★ ASTRA = THE FIRST (TYPICALLY THE BRIGHTEST) STAR IN A CONSTELLATION

C C  
 C C  
 C C  
 C C  
 C C  
 C C  
 c c  
 c c

E E  
 E E  
 E E  
 E E  
 E E  
 E E  
 e e  
 e e

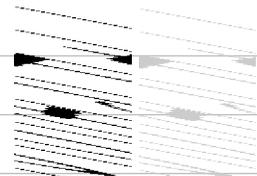
D D  
 D D  
 D D  
 D D  
 D D  
 d d d d d  
 d d d d d

\* THESE TWO LETTERS ARE **PURE CURLINESS!**

'E' IS THE MOST COMMONLY USED LETTER IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



F F



F F

F F

F F

f f f f f

f f f f f

« THE INKY **F**UTURE IS **F**EMININE AND **F**LORAL!