



Love Letters of Great Men and Women

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Together for the first time in one volume: the bestselling Love Letters of Great Men and Love Letters of Great Women From the private papers of Jane Austen and Mozart to those of Anne Boleyn and Nelson, Love Letters of Great Men and Women collects together some of the most romantic letters in history. For some of these great men, love is a 'delicious poison' (William Congreve); for others, 'a nice soft wife on a sofa with good fire, & books & music' (Charles Darwin). Love can scorch like the heat of the sun (Henry VIII), or penetrate the depths of one's heart like a cooling rain (Flaubert). But what about the other side of the story? What of the secret hopes and lives of some of the greatest women in history? Taken together, these love letters show that perhaps little has changed over the last 2,000 years. Passion, jealousy, hope and longing are all represented here – as is the simple pleasure of sending a letter to, and receiving one from, the person you love most. Includes letters by: Anne Boleyn * Beethoven * Edith Wharton * Mark Twain * Mary Wordsworth * Nell Gwyn (mistress of Charles II) * Elizabeth Barrett Browning * GK Chesterton * Queen Victoria * Napoleon Bonaparte * The Empress Josephine * Mary Wollstonecraft * Amadeus Mozart * Katherine Mansfield Praise for Love Letters of Great Men : 'The most romantic book ever' Daily Mail 'Inspired by the Sex and the City movie... Famous men caught with pen in hand and heart in mouth' The Times About The Author: Ursula Doyle was born in 1967. She lives in London.

Love Letters of Great Men and Women Details

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From Reader Review Love Letters of Great Men and Women for online ebook

Jess says

The editing of this collection is a little heavy-handed, and some of the introductions to the authors of the letters are too long. However, the actual content is wonderful - a whole spectrum of the types and circumstances of love is covered, and I often had a huge smile on my face after reading them. Heartbreaking, life-affirming, all of that stuff and a sweet reminder as to how love can make us feel. Even if we don't write letters to our loves any more, the feelings remain the same, surely? That's the hope I took away from this collection, anyway.

Emma says

I enjoyed the brief biographical introductions to the letters' authors much more than the letters themselves. By only showcasing one or two letters from each great man or great woman, it was difficult to build up the love story. Also, I would have preferred to read the letters to and from the great men and women to understand the dialogue between lovers better.

This is a good coffee table book though as it is easy to dip in and out of.

Mary. says

I've been reading historical non-fiction lately. And I have to say I was beginning to think people in the past did not believe in love. I was starting to fear that I may never find love either. But after picking this book, I now know that such thing as love really does exist. The letters of Mark Twain have been highlighted by my pen, and I am most certain I will come back for more. I will read them over and over again, until I have found love myself. And then, perhaps I may even write letters of my own.

B says

A bit hit-and-miss, to be honest. Some letters by Henry VIII, Napoleon, Queen Victoria, and George Sand were really beautiful and insightful. For most of it, though, the letters weren't really romantic or passionate. Maybe a bit more research could've been done on it. Plus, the uber basic write-ups on each letter-writer were a tad annoying as they were too vague.

Shin'itsirou Futono says

Excellent!!

Marianne says

I cannot overstate how much I enjoyed this. I really almost want to go through it with a highlighter and marking passages and quotes. I'm a hopeless romantic, it's true so it was always going to appeal but in the collection we have letters from authors, leaders, politicians, composers, scientists and monarchs. We have Henry the VIII sending a portrait of himself as a sign of his affection to Anne Boleyn, and Anne Boleyn sending a letter back to him years later as she's imprisoned. We have Queen Victoria writing to Prince Albert making sure he was aware of his place in life before they were married, and then another where she wrote to King Leopold utterly heartbroken after Albert died. There is Beethoven's famous letters to his 'Immortal Beloved' and letters from famous womanisers like Lord Byron and Robert Burns.

Not all the stories are about happily ever after and a shocking number of letters are addressed to mistresses and bit's on the side, but some of the most beautiful moments comes from guys like Nathaniel Hawthorne (this entries title is from the beginning and end of his letter to his wife), or Robert Browning (who refused to marry for the remainder of his life and spent the last 28 years of his life alone because 'his heart was buried in Florence'), or Mozart who spent his letters teasing and joking with his wife.

It's just a beautiful book that I'm already trying to resist re-reading just because I need to get back on track in terms of churning out the books a little quicker.

Selma says

I love love and that was all that this book was about. It was -- as the title says -- a collection of love letters, and it was really interesting to read. This book gave a different insight into the lives of these famous men and women to see their most intimate thoughts and to see how they expressed themselves.

There was a short introduction preceding each letter, giving a short history about the man or the woman telling the reader what they had done to be considered one of the greats. It also gave you a brief knowledge of the people whom you did not know anything about beforehand, which I found very interesting. The letters were well chosen as some of them touched upon some very important historical events and theories that were pertinent to the persons existence. The book boasted letters from people such as Oscar Wilde -- who, to be quite frank, had a weird obsession with feet -- to queen Alexandra of Russia; thus, providing a wide range of people.

Overall, I thought this was a really fun read with interesting information and facts about the authors of the letters allowing for a newfound view of them. Also allowing for a different side of these historical figures to be portrayed, meaning you get a different interpretation of their character and to a certain degree can understand why they did they things they did much better.

Mandi Ellsworth says

I confess, I didn't read every letter because I found this book mostly depressing, despite its promising title. It seemed that nearly everyone was either writing to a mistress or someone else's wife for the men's part. And don't even get me started on the crazy lives of the women they chose to highlight. The two couples I can say were actually sweet, were Mark Twain and his wife, and John and Abigail Adams. It also seems that everyone died of tuberculosis. It was a very interesting read, and if you skip a lot of the letters, it's quick. Just

don't read it if you're a sap, like me, because it's not what you're looking for.

Milka says

First of all, I just want to note that this book does not include love letters by Jane Austen even though the description says so. But even though I always love some Austen, this book was pretty good without it.

Since I watched the Sex and the City movie I've been wanting to buy one of those love letter books there are in the bookstores. When I was hanging around at the Waterstone's at London I found this one and had to buy it since it looked so good. And I am happy I did since this was delightful, a lot different read. I don't really read that much of nonfiction and I think this was actually the first letter book I've ever read.

The fact that these letters were actually written by someone is amazing. Some of the letters are so full of emotion, especially love. I just wish I could receive letters like the letters in this book. My favorites were the letters by John Keats, Lord Byron and Amadeus Mozart. From my favorites it is evident that I enjoyed more that part with letters from men to women even though the both parts of the book were good.

If you are looking for a light non-fiction read, this book is a perfect pick for you. And I never thought reading old letters could be that interesting. I have this book called "800 years of women's letters" or something like that in my bookshelf and I think I will pick it up soon. And I also have Jane Austen's collected letters which I haven't read yet.

I know there are many different collections of love letters at bookstores and since I haven't read any other ones I cannot compare this to anything. But I think that the variety of the type of letters and the variety of writers made this an interesting read.

Vassilena says

I read only the letters of great men, as I was looking for some patterns to see. Truly, people in love are not that different from each other and it shows by their wording and approach to showing affection. I like how you can learn about the writer's background and compare it to his way of expressing affection. Some are better, some are worse, but those letters are a nice and easy read. The literary power is not that great, but the analysis you can do with the texts is quite fun.

H.J. Aridan says

I love this book-- This was my second copy, having given away my first. I can't tell you how much some of these letters bring a smile to my lips.

Out of every letter, I would advise you to pay particular attention to John Keat's. They are simply stunning.

Also, Oscar Wilde... living up to his name.

In all seriousness, it is a wonderful read to bring a smile to your heart when you're happy or give warmth to your soul when you are feeling down.

Do not miss this gem!!

Despina Frantzi? says

Not your average read-it-in-one-day book. It's a book to read inbetween other books. It's actually a nice collection of love letters, with all those cliché quotes and that swoony feeling. I didn't read it fast, because it's not a book that has a plot, it's just a collection. Nevertheless, being a hopeless romantic soul, I really liked it.

TheGeekyBlogger says

Review: Love Letters Of Great Men And Women by C. H. Charles

I loved this collection of love letters, as they are possibly the most private and intimate thoughts of these talented individuals!

Two of my favorites:

1) Victor Hugo in 1821 (just a snippet: This is the love which you inspire in me....Your soul is made to love with the purity and passions of angels;.....”

2) Duff Cooper in 1918 (just a snippet: ...that I never see beauty without thinking of you or scent happiness without thinking of you”

There are many great letters in this book and recommend it to any hopeful/hopeless romantic out there!

Aphrodite says

I enjoyed this book more than I expected. I was always interested on the concept of what is behind the ‘myth’ on everything, including influential men and women, and this book somehow covers this aspect as it truly presents the more personal side of great people. I found myself in a delightful mood most of the time, while reading this book. I bought the book out of curiosity to see how men were expressing their affections (and maybe to compare the words of men vs. women? Idk) and wow, they can write alright and create something so beautiful. Now, I can say that I enjoyed men’s letters more than women’s, and yes, I could definitely see myself going back, re-reading some of the letters.

Alyssa Shapland says

Absolutely beautiful book that shows all the different ways that love has been expressed over the centuries,

not just by well known individuals, but also the common man. I will read my favourite ones from this collection over and over again.
