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To the Letter: A Journey Through a Vanishing World

By Garfield, Simon.

Canongate. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. From Roman wood chips discovered near Hadrian's Wall to the wonders and terrors of e-mail, the author of *On the Map* and *Just My Type* here delves into how we have written to each other over the centuries, and what our letters reveal about our lives. Simon Garfield spotlights some of the great correspondences of record, including missives penned by Cicero, Petrarch, Jane Austen, Ted Hughes, John Keats, Virginia Woolf, Jack Kerouac, Anaïs Nin, and Charles Schulz. In addition Garfield uncovers the tricky history of the opening greeting, the ideal ingredients for invisible ink, the sad saga of the dead letter office, and the very particular advice offered by bestselling letter-writing manuals. "A hymn of praise to twenty centuries of letter-writing. It spurs a desire to reach once more for the pad and envelope. Garfield's knowledge is wide and his enthusiasm matchless." *Times (London)* "A brilliant account of a lost art. Funny letters, sad letters, pompous letters, famous letters, farewell letters, saucy letters, letters from soldiers and letters from swindlers: they are all here." *Mail on Sunday (London)* "One of the things which makes this book so attractive is Garfield's enjoyment of his subject. He writes...



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