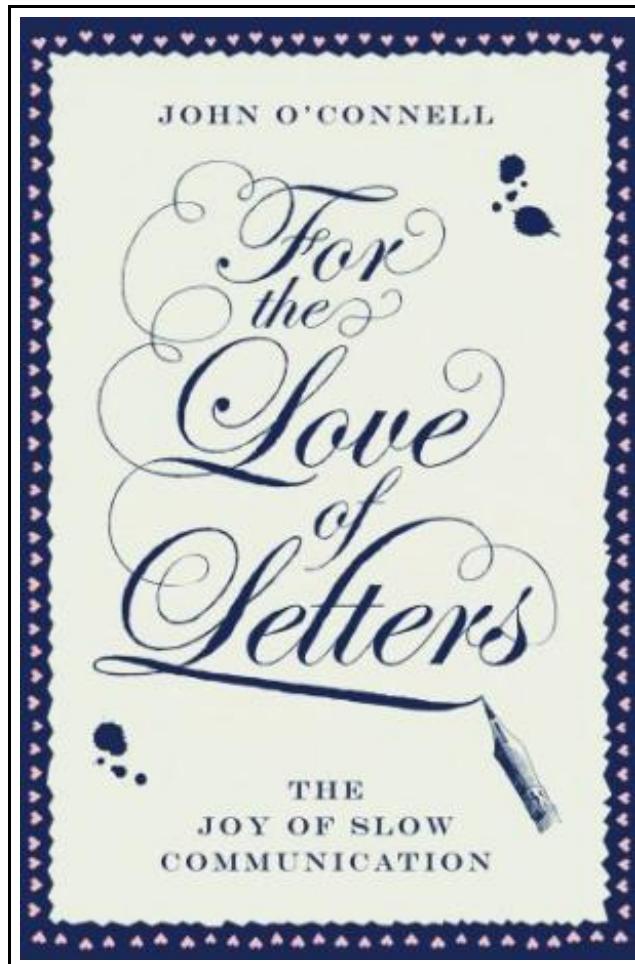


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Atria Books, United States, 2013. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 216 x 142 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Remember letters? They were good, weren't they? The thrill of receiving that battered envelope, all the better for the wait . . . In this richly entertaining book, paper geek John O'Connell puts forward a passionate case for the value of letter-writing in a distracted, technology-obsessed world. Drawing on great examples from the past, he shows that the best letters have much to teach us - Samuel Richardson's familiar letters; Wilfred Owen's outpourings to his mother; the sly observational charms of Jane Austen. And in doing so he reminds us of the kind of letters we would all write if we had the time - the perfect thank-you letter, a truly empathetic condolence letter, and of course the heartfelt declaration of love. Was there a Golden Age of Letters? Why is handwriting so important? Can we ever regain the hallowed slowness of the pre-Twitter era? In answering these questions O'Connell shows how a proper letter is an object to be cherished, its crafting an act of exposure which gives shape and meaning to the chaos of life. *** The nib touches the paper. And instinctively I follow the old formula: address in top right-hand corner; date just beneath it on the left-hand side. My writing looks weird. I hand-write so infrequently these days that I've developed a graphic stammer - my brain's way of registering its impatience and bemusement. What are you doing? Just send an email! I haven't got all night . . .

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