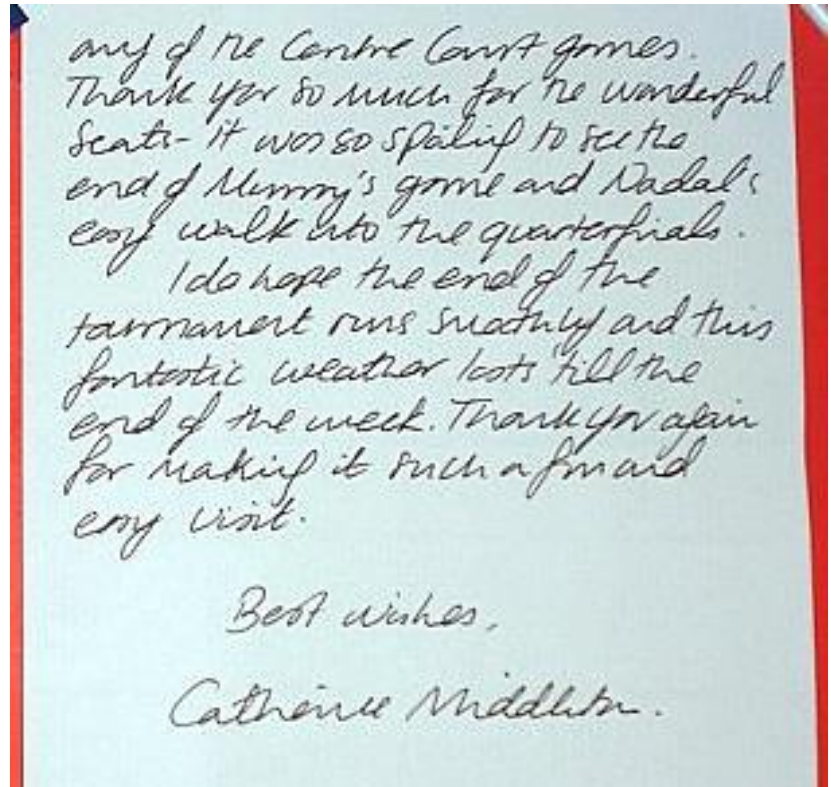


THE WAR OF THE DUCHESSES (A GRAPHOLOGICAL PEEK BEHIND CLOSED DOORS)

– BY TRACEY TRUSSELL

There has been much talk in the media about conflict and disparities between the houses of Cambridge and Sussex, and some speculation on an alleged rift between the two Duchesses is rife. So I thought it would be an interesting exercise to explore their compatibility through the prism of graphology, with a view to understanding a little more about why Catherine and Meghan *may* not be getting along so well together.

Graphology is a snapshot of the moment. It's a graphic revelation that makes no account for the writer's age, only their maturity. Naturally two people of similar ages will have had completely different life experiences and evolved simply because life happens and affects people in different ways. So although Catherine is technically six months younger than her sister-in-law (Catherine was born in January 1982, Meghan in August 1981), it is interesting and perhaps not entirely surprising to note that she is graphically the elder and more grown up of the two women. The Duchess of Cambridge is much more comfortable within her own skin and able to direct her life from a more mature viewpoint.



Meghan's *calligraphic style* is well documented. This immediately tells us that appearances matter very much in her book, so she is more contrived, hiding behind a carefully constructed mask that conceals underlying feelings of inadequacy and a secret desire for all the frivolous things in life. Meghan also exercises extreme self-constraint (*narrow, arcades, stilted rhythm*), and the clockwork *regularity* of her writing tells us that she has the self-discipline to maintain the right profile and etiquette in-keeping with Royal life. Meghan will not try to reinvent the wheel, and she won't leave anything to chance - she's a stickler for getting things right and inhabits a perfectionist streak shot through with flair. She puts *so* much effort into following the rules to the 'letter', it must all be exhausting for her! The smile is painted on, but behind closed doors, she'll need to kick off her shoes and let off a bit of steam.

Meanwhile Catherine is delightfully natural, genuine and reliable (*natural rhythmic flow, joined up, legibility*), and what you see is what you get (*signature matches text*). The *long t-bars* reveal her driving energy and tenacity, and mean she's happy to take charge. She's also approachable (*the capital letter 'C' of 'Catherine' is joined to the next letter*), warm-hearted (*large size and broad*), compassionate (*marked right slant with garland connections*), mature (*zonal balance with rhythmic flow*), and enthusiastic (*large size, marked right slant, connected*).

To be fair, the Duchesses both share some matching dominant movements. Meghan also has a large and greatly inclining, joined up script, revealing strong glimpses of an equally ebullient passion and enthusiasm for embracing life, as well as a sensitive, human side to her nature, but in her case the

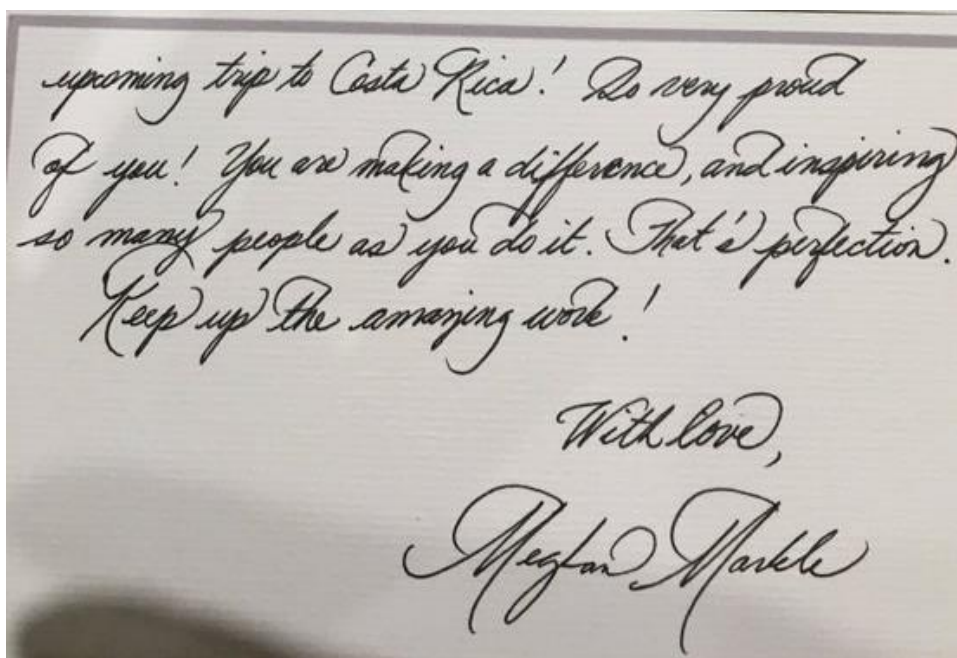
delivery is overdone (*stilted rhythm with persona style*). Both ladies are a *One on the Enneagram*. So we know they are both upstanding women - reliable, loyal and productive, self-disciplined, moral crusaders, determined not to put a foot wrong. They are both outwardly confident, ambitious (social climbers) with impossibly high standards to maintain. They are also both strongly principled, idealistically committed to their goals, motivated by a need for social approval and dedicated to living their lives the right way, including improving the world and making it a better place. So far, so similar and positive.

Who knew Catherine and Meghan were so alike? The women appear to share the same attitudes and values, but do birds of a feather flock together? Or perhaps it's these very *similarities* that are the foundation for any reputed tensions? The Duchesses both think they're right, they both want to get their own way, and they both want to be in charge. Frankly both women are natural born leaders. And where you have two leaders under the same roof, there is always going to be some contention and rivalry - some degree of friction. Catherine and Meghan are jostling for leadership!

Dig deeper, and the tell-tale differences of these women are exposed, beginning with the fact that Meghan's handwriting is *excessively regular*, uncovering her intolerant, demanding side, and 'stiff' approach to life. Brand Meghan is all about delivering a polished performance. She enjoys formalities; she's classy and elegant - with a flair for appearing to conform and acting like the consummate professional and the answer to all Royalty dreams. She is also particularly adept and manipulative at using her feminine wiles to charm the stiffest upper-lipped people (*see the garland flourish starting stroke of her capital 'M'*). So what you rarely see is what's going on behind that painted-on smile. We do not see her underlying feelings of inadequacy or how her anxieties manifest in controlling, dictatorial behaviour, amplified by an argumentative streak. Meghan is vulnerable and has a deep-seated need to self-protect.

Let's zoom in closer on the 'nuances'. Affectations are like little props - they always reveal anxiety. Meghan is incredibly private, self-protective (*stylised with arched protective umbrella strokes*) and apprehensive in the face of anything new (*see the long lead-in start stroke on the capital letter M*). We can see that she finds it hard to forget people who have meant a lot to her in the past (*strong left tends - see the dramatic left sweep of the endstroke letter 'n' combined with the protective 'umbrella' style of superfluous loops/ embellishments in the upper zone*). And the capital letter M for Meghan, with the second downstroke extending into the lower zone (*i.e. beneath the baseline*), shows that she

needs stability and protection. Where you have MZ letters prolonged downwards and extending into the LZ, this tells us that she stubbornly stakes her opinions in the ground. Also, the disproportionately small and diminished round letters in the middle zone sitting on the baseline, always uncovers a lack of confidence fuelling the anxiety - it's the classic





sign of an inferiority complex).

We have uncovered a romantic, passionate, and devoted portrait of a woman, who is trying very hard *not* to wear her heart on her sleeve. We have seen that Meghan is a crowd pleaser. But now we know that she undoubtedly needs Harry's protection, and appearances are rarely what they seem. We may not know what Meghan's really like behind the mask, until much further down the line, if ever.

But what we do also know, by Meghan's little touches or accoutrements (for example, the small *hook* at the start of her capital 'M') that once she has set her heart on something, she holds on, and nothing will stop her until she's satisfied her goal. Therefore she is likely to be super-committed to whatever she undertakes. We also know that the *upwards endstrokes* (of the 'n' of 'Meghan') tell of a humanitarian side - the Duchess wants to do good deeds in life - and she's determined in the way she goes about achieving her far-reaching ambitions. But the *strong left tend of the same 'n' endstroke* reveals a selfish streak. It's like she's saying "Here, take it, it's yours.... but if you don't want it, give it back!" It's all about recognition and smoke screens - Meghan means well, and she wants to be seen to be doing the right thing.

Catherine, on the other hand, doesn't need props. The *garland connecting strokes* highlight her excellent social skills, and ability to carry out her duties with willingness, flexibility and sincerity. They also mean she'll do anything for a quiet life, although the *full stop at the end* (of her name) means she likes to have the last word, and it's an implicit barrier to people taking liberties with her - she won't have anyone stepping on her toes. Catherine certainly won't like Meghan storming in and throwing her weight around. Catherine's endstrokes are blunt, which means she doesn't sugar-coat things and she can't be doing with any nonsense. Her manner will be direct, showing a clear-cut preference for practical, down-to-earth intelligence.

They are both strong women who mean well, but Meghan is so much more uptight and into herself. Her manufactured *persona style* means that we'll never really know what's going on underneath. It does tell us that there have been immense disappointments and frustrations that have tracked her from the past and propelled her almost into a caricature of wanting to do well and be that person who is applauded by an audience. The point is, anybody who exerts that amount of self-control, you can be sure of several things: One, they have strong manipulative tendencies, which obviously can rub badly with someone who's more natural. Two, they have a tendency to be quite different behind closed doors. (Queen Victoria was the perfect example of this type of behaviour). Three, they are often control freaks.

Last but not least, the Duchesses emotional barometers (seen in the *slant*) are both set to the far right, which means that emotional responsiveness will be high. This is fine so long as they are both getting along well, but potentially explosive if there are exchanges of differences. And if dialogue takes place behind closed doors, when Meghan's mask is down, who knows what fireworks may have been ignited?

CONCLUDING NOTE:

The Duchesses are actually more alike than the public realise. They are strong women, self-disciplined perfectionists, dedicated do-gooders, moral crusaders and natural born leaders, who share core values and principles. They just differ in their delivery. Catherine is understated English, and Meghan is overstated American. Catherine is also more spontaneous and natural, Meghan more polished, affected and anxious.



MEDIA LINKS

2019:

TV Coverage

- **Good Morning Britain ITV** - Monday 11th February at 6.50am - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9kRv2c5Rk&t=5s>
- **Food Unwrapped Channel 4** - (details of airing to follow)

Online Coverage

- **Daily Mail:**
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6687987/Secrets-Meghans-letter-Thomas-Markle-according-experts.html>
- **Metro:**
<https://metro.co.uk/2019/02/11/meghans-handwriting-shows-desperate-hide-true-feelings-8520576/>

2018:

Print Coverage

- **Daily Mail** - P42 and 47 (double page centre spread)
- **Daily Express** - P33
- **Daily Mirror** - P24 and P25

Online Coverage

- **Harpers Bazaar Magazine:**
<https://www.harpersbazaar.com/uk/celebrities/news/a22114669/meghan-markle-prince-harry-signature-handwriting-expert/>
- **Daily Mail:**
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-5942633/amp/How-Meghans-signature-suggests-able-charm-stiff-upper-lipped.html>
- **Daily Mail:**
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-5934197/Handwriting-analyst-reveals-Meghan-Markles-penchant-perfection.html>
- **Daily Express:**
<https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/life/966751/meghan-markle-harry-handwriting-news-pictures>
- **Elle Magazine:**
<https://www.elle.com/uk/life-and-culture/a20972971/handwriting-expert-meghan-markles-signature/>
- **Daily Mail:**
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-5972769/Donald-Trump-Meghan-Markle-Prince-Harry-Prince-William-Kate-Middletons-signatures-analysed.html>
- **Insider:**
<https://www.thisinsider.com/prince-harry-meghan-markle-signature-handwriting-analysis-2018-7>