

## ***BEING A GRAPHOLOGIST - TRACEY TRUSSELL M.BIG(DIP)***

Imagine having to break the news to a woman you've never met that you believe her husband may be having an affair. Just from looking at his innocuous handwritten notes on a partially tea-stained, considerably creased, and pre-lined A4 sheet of notepaper. Imagine having to explain that whilst you can only advise on the likelihood of someone having an affair, given a certain set of circumstances, that you can confirm the man she married several decades ago, spent the best part of her life with, sharing a bed and rearing two children; that this man is in fact gay. I know this; just from the way he composes his letters. Just by the way he innocently spills his DNA, leaving traces of his whole psychological profile in symbols on the page. Not, you must understand, from the humdrum content of the shopping list, but by analysing the handwriting itself, and 'reading' the insight accidentally provided in the flow, the rhythm, the pressure patterns, the spacing and layout, and the formation of his letters. Every swirl and mark on the paper, irrespective of language, time or location, offers up profound clues to the writer, telling their unique story. Revealing secrets. It may sound unbelievable, but it's true. This is my job.

Imagine also having to explain to a woman what her husband was thinking and how he was feeling, on the day he decided to end his own life. Just by interpreting the handwritten contents of a suicide note. Or trying to describe to a young woman what her departed aunt was really like (behind the blissful smile in the decrepit tatty photo), and why her partner might have murdered her in cold blood before taking his own. Just by exploring their intimate love letters and dated postcards. Or being asked to construct an in-depth personality profile for a spooked client. Just by deciphering an anonymously written poison pen letter, and giving clues as to the type of person who wrote it. Or being responsible for the break-up of a fresh relationship, just because the couple's handwritten samples revealed utter incompatibility. It may have taken months after the initial lust had worn off, for the unpalatable truths to emerge. The point is, I'm dealing in people's lives, their hearts.

It's not all bad news. Mostly, I have the opportunity to unravel people's personalities - their core characters and fluid behaviour - by tapping into their handwriting like a gold-digger revealing hidden potential and life-enhancing benefits. I shine a light on issues that confront us everyday, enlightening and empowering my clients to understand themselves, or someone else, just that little bit better, so they can make informed decisions, and the very best of their lives. I've advised parents selecting the most suitable school for their children. I've helped people in the throes of a midlife crisis explore and confront their thoughts, feelings and anxieties, so they can look at themselves objectively, see who they really are and identify any areas they'd like to change. I've supported couples building and strengthening relationships, and I regularly assist companies sourcing the best talent. The list goes on. Every commission is different, and the versatility of graphology cannot be overestimated. I rarely get to meet my clients, but what they all hold in common is that they figuratively come to life and step off the page, so I have the privilege of knowing each and every one of them intimately.

It's all in the script, and that's why I can never resist the urge to analyse a piece of unique handwriting and meet someone new on paper. Every time I hear the tell-tale thud of post landing on the doormat, I always get an excited feeling in the pit of my stomach.

The best part for me is that the scientific study of decoding inky marks and symbols doesn't discriminate against the visual appearance of the script, but rather champions and treasures these genuine marks on the page. They are just waiting for me to slit open the envelopes and discover the truths inside. I may have immense insight into what is lurking in the depths of people's minds, but my work is completely non-invasive and non-judgemental. I have none of the usual physiological details waiting to blind me, or trip me up - no beautiful face, no designer stubble, no toned physique, no warts or wrinkles, no grey-blue eyes, nor any mannerisms or superficial props, no camouflage or fashion labels, no proxy selves. No clues at all, beyond the prosaic knowledge of which hand the writers used (their right or left), their gender (because I'm looking at a person's soul and wouldn't know for sure if someone is male or female), and their chronological age (so I'm aware of their maturity and evolution). I can circumvent the persona in super-quick time and see exactly what a company is getting for their money, what a man or a woman is dealing with in a spouse, what a young child may be hiding in their heart.

*Tracey is an accredited tutor and mentor at the British Institute of Graphologists. Her article "The Script of Your Life" can be found in Breathe magazine, Issue 33. There's more on her website at [www.handright.co.uk](http://www.handright.co.uk) and on Instagram @traceytrussell, and she can be contacted at [traceytrussell@gmail.com](mailto:traceytrussell@gmail.com).*