Welcome to Romance the Write Way! This program is all about firing up the passion in your marriage in one of the simplest but most meaningful ways - communicating through the written word.

There are few things you can do that will have an immediate and lasting impact on your intimacy like a romantic love letter. Yet, we pretty much never write them!

Why is that? The reason is we overcomplicate things or we just don’t know where to start. Romance the Write Way is here to make it easy for you.

My name is Dustin Riechmann, and I’ll be joined in presenting this program by my lovely wife Bethany. Bethany, why don’t you start off sharing a little about how we discovered just how powerful love letters can be?

Bethany: Sure thing. We’re passionate about this topic because it’s meant so much to our marriage.

It was during a marriage retreat about six years ago that we were asked to write some letters to each other. We had no idea what to expect, but to our surprise that simple act ended up changing our lives.

In that case, we were asked to describe our dream marriage separately, in our own words and with raw emotion. This wasn’t just some fluffy stuff but real details about what we wanted and how we felt that went pretty deep. When we shared our letters with each other, we were both overcome with emotion as we realized that we had let our marriage and our intimacy get in a rut.
It was truly a turning point for us - since then we’ve made some pretty major changes to our lifestyle and we started Engaged Marriage and have been blessed to work with thousands of couples to provide practical help in building their dream marriage.

Now we’re excited to pass this gift onto you and your marriage.

**Dustin:** Thanks, Bethany. Let me give a quick overview of how this training will go down. In Part 1, Bethany will talk to the guys and describe why love letters are so important to receive as a woman and teach you the best topics to write about when romancing your wife.

In Part 2, we’ll turn the tables and I’ll share with the ladies why men love getting romantic letters too and what to include to knock your husband’s socks off.

In Part 3, we’ll give you a step-by-step action plan so you can write a letter that your spouse will love today and anytime you want to spice up the intimacy in your relationship.

Finally, in Part 4, we will walk you through some super-easy templates that you can use to simply “plug and play” and create a lasting impact in less than 10 minutes.

Bethany, why don’t you kick things off for the guys?

**PART 1 - LOVE LETTERS FOR YOUR WIFE**

**Bethany:** Alright guys, first of all don’t get intimidated with the idea of writing a love letter. It really doesn’t need to be complicated at all.

Dustin and I have been blessed to be together since high school, and I still have a box full of notes that he wrote way back then. These weren’t exactly Shakespeare, but they were from the heart, and I always felt special when I read them because they reminded me of why Dustin loves me. Simple is awesome!

Now, when it comes to sex and intimacy, you need to know that your wife probably operates differently than you because it’s the way God made her. You see, while men typically need sex to feel close to their partner, women need to feel close to their partner before they want to have sex.
Tricky I know but not to worry - it just means that you need to make some effort ro-
mancing her throughout the day. And a good love letter is one of THE best ways to
make it happen.

You may have noticed that us women tend to be quite verbal, and we communicate
best through stories. While you may prefer to just get to the point, we like context and
character.

So when you write your wife a love letter, frame it like a story to make her really feel it.
That doesn't mean it’s fiction - it just means it includes a setting, some people and
some feeling. Don't worry, it doesn't have to be too mushy!

Let’s talk about some examples of love letter topics she’ll enjoy:

**Topic #1 - I Knew I Loved You When…**

Tell her the story of falling in love with her through your eyes. Describe why it was spe-
cial, your favorite moment from dating and why she is the one for you forever. You
don’t have to talk about a lot topics - really hone in on one special moment and use a
lot of detail.

**Topic #2 - You Drive Me Crazy…and I Like It!**

Share with her one thing she does that you absolutely love, but she probably doesn’t
even realize it. Maybe it's when she wears her hair up, when she brushes against you
when there’s plenty of room to walk around, or when she grabs your leg in the car. De-
scribe how you feel and thoughts you have. Let her know just how much she rocks
your world without even trying!

**Topic #3 - Thank God**

Let her know why you feel she is uniquely awesome in this world. Share a few things
she does that just blow you away and describe how this is a blessing to you and your
family. Be sure to include some of the emotions you feel when you think or pray about
these blessings.

Alright Dustin, I think the guys are ready to write - how about the ladies listening?
PART 2 - LOVE LETTERS FOR YOUR HUSBAND

Dustin: That was great. OK, when you think of a romantic letter, you probably assume it's from a man to a woman. But that's not so! Guys like to hear different things, but we still love to receive special letters from our wife.

If you open the drawer of my night stand right now, you'll find letters and notes from Bethany going back several years. I still read them.

I’m not a real mushy guy, but the affirmation and appreciation I get from these letters is powerful. One of my favorites is from this past Easter when Bethany shared how she sees God working through me - talk about a romantic, intimate keepsake!

So ladies, Bethany shared how you thrive on verbal communication and appreciate good stories. You should know that guys are less verbose - studies suggest that the average woman speaks 20,000 words each day while men over speak 7,000.

This means that you can really keep it simple and not worry at all about being fluffy. Most men appreciate knowing the facts, understanding the point without a lot of mystery. But we still learn and feel best through stories.

We are going to talk about several good topics for the love letters to your man, but let me share a little secret with you. Pretty much every man I’ve ever met craves Affirmation. That means we love to hear that our hard work doesn’t go unnoticed and that it’s making you happy - which is a top priority for us as men.

Here’s some examples of love letter topics that he’ll enjoy:

**Topic #1 - Thank You For…**

This goes right to the heart of Affirmation. You are going to share one or several things he’s done that you deeply appreciate. Recency is great, so if you can focus on the last week or two, you get bonus points. And remember these can be really simple things that he wouldn’t expect you to notice or acknowledge - in fact, those are the best.

**Topic #2 - When I’m In Your Arms…**

How do you feel when your husband puts his arm around you or gives you a big bear hug? Share that sense of security, warmth and attraction in a short letter. Men are generally hard-wired to appreciate and respond to physical touch. Letting him know
that you not only love it when he touches you, but it sparks emotions that only he can provide will touch him right in his heart.

**Topic #3 - I’m Proud of You**

If you want to get to the heart of affirming him, let him know you not only appreciate what he’s done, but you’re proud of him. Whether it’s something he’s done in your marriage, with your kids or at work, share why you feel like bragging on him. Let him know you find his achievement/action sexy and very attractive.

**PART 3 - THE SIMPLE 5-STEP PLAN FOR WRITING AN AWESOME LOVE LETTER**

**Bethany:** The six examples we just shared can totally be used by either the husband or the wife. And you can of course write on any topic that best suits you. The great thing about sharing a romantic letter is there are no wrong topics!

To make it easy for you, Dustin’s going to share a simple 5-step process you can use to craft a fantastic romantic letter any time.

**Dustin:** Thanks, dear. I’m going to outline what I like to call the “Simple “5R” Approach to Romantic Letter Writing” - it’s easy to remember and even easier to do.

1. **Relax**

   When it comes to writing a love letter, there is no pressure and no need to be verbose or intellectual. A simple and heartfelt approach is the way to go. Think about those high school notes Bethany mentioned, and try to be that pure and straightforward with your writing style.

2. **Reflect**

   Here’s some great news. The toughest part of writing a great letter is finding a few quiet minutes to sit and think about your spouse. And you know that will be a good time.

   It’s nice to have a simple theme to provide a framework for your letter. If it’s an occasion like a birthday, think of the fantastic memories you’ve shared over the past year. On an anniversary, compare your crazy first year of marriage to the current state of your relationship.
Of course, the best results are likely to come from a letter written “just because”, and I think this is a sweet opportunity to tell the story of your first date or engagement from your perspective (think emotions, expectations and excitement). Like one of the examples we shared earlier, you can simply tell your spouse why you fell in love with them and why they’re even better today.

Remember than anytime you can affirm your spouse, you’ll create real joy.

3. Rough it Out

If you haven’t written much in a while, or even if you have, it’s really helpful to jot down your raw thoughts. When you are thinking through your theme (first date, her smile, his masculinity), just quickly write down the phrases that come to mind. This will allow your creativity to flow more than you’d expect, and it will help you get your thoughts straight.

All you have to do is arrange these phrases, throw in a few words to connect them, and you will have the workings of an awesome romantic letter.

4. Write…with Your Hand!

In today’s electronic world, it is tough to imagine writing a letter by hand. The thought actually makes my hand cramp a bit. But trust me, a handwritten romantic letter will be super impressive!

The medium you choose to write on is really not important aside from helping to set the mood you’re trying to create. It could be construction paper, a yellow pad or some fancy foil-embossed paper. Seriously, anything can work.

Now, if your handwriting is truly illegible, you may be forced to type out your thoughts (unless you can read your own writing and follow step #5 as suggested). In that case, you should go for some nice paper and a cool font to add a personal touch.

5. Recite

Here’s where your romantic letter goes to the next level. Read it aloud to your spouse.

I mentioned that Bethany and I wrote several letters to one another as part of a marriage retreat, and that was cool. However, the real magic came in the delivery when we read our thoughts to each other. You won’t believe how much better your feelings come through in this way - it gets to the real underlying emotion.
If this just isn’t feasible in your situation, do something creative with the delivery to form a lasting memory. Mail the letter (I did this as a precursor to the night I proposed to Bethany). Hide it someplace where it will be found at an unexpected time. Have it delivered to your spouse’s work along with a single rose or a cool picture of you together having fun. Just add a little something to make it memorable.

PART 4 - DONE-FOR-YOU LOVE LETTER TEMPLATES!

Bethany: To make this as easy as possible, we’re giving you two templates - one primarily intended for a woman and one for a man. To use them, simply fill in the blanks provided to personalize the letter for your spouse. This will eliminate writer’s block while still delivering a heartfelt and personal romantic love letter.

I want to spend a few minutes walking you through the first template, then Dustin will share the second one. These templates have been written and referenced as being “from husband to wife” and “from wife to husband.” However, it’s totally fine to use them interchangeably and you can by just changing a few words around.

When we read through them aloud, it’s going to be a little hard to follow since I’ll mention several options for each blank in the template. I’d definitely encourage you to have the template in front of you so you can follow along and fill in the easy ones as we go. Then you can spend a few minutes on the more personal sections to wrap up your perfect love letter.

[Refer to the Love Letter Templates for the text transcript of this section of the audio presentation]
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Dustin: Whenever we write or speak on the topic of love letters, we inevitably receive several common questions from couples. Rather than leave you hanging, I want to go ahead and address five of the most common questions that we hear.

How long should my love letter be?

Like a good story, I like to tell people that a great romantic letter should be as long as a great dress - long enough to cover what’s necessary but short enough to stay interesting.

In all seriousness, there’s absolutely no length expectation or page limit when it comes to writing a letter to your spouse. It can be as short as a wonderful paragraph or as long as a book. But if you need some boundaries to make you feel comfortable, aim for half a notebook page for your first letter.

I just don’t know where to begin - how do I get started?

First of all, you should be sure to take advantage of the templates provided with this program. They should get you started without too much strain on your brain.

That said, when I started writing love letters, the best advice I was given was to write the words you would want to find. In other words, what are the things you’d like to hear from your husband or wife? Those tend to touch your spouse’s heart as well, and it gives you a solid platform from which to write.

And if you’re stuck, just write single words on a piece of paper - maybe short phrases - to brainstorm. We often get writer’s block because we’re trying to format/edit/brainstorm and write all at once. Remember the 5R process we talked about earlier and just get some thoughts thrown on paper to break through the inertia - you can always form it into a letter later.

How can I make my letter extra special?

I love this question. We’ve already covered how to make your letter ultra-personal and make your spouse really FEEL what you’re sharing. We also talked about reciting your letter verbally to make a lasting impact.
In addition to those tips, one of the best things you can do is use your letter to surprise your husband or wife. You can leave it in her purse, in his car, his luggage or her lunch box. If you can make finding the letter a special memory, it will leave a lasting impression.

You can also add some physical touches to the letter itself. You could attach it to an object related to your topic - maybe a ticket stub from your first movie or a photo from your special date. And don’t underestimate a spray of your perfume or cologne, or even sealing it with a kiss!

What if I really hate writing?

Your hatred of writing is no excuse for not composing an awesome romantic letter for your spouse. If you really can’t type or write legibly, there’s always audio.

You could just deliver in person, but if you don’t feel comfortable doing that or you want to add an element of surprise, there are other options. I’d suggest that you can record your message in audio format. Pretty much any phone can do this now as well as your computer - and most devices will even transcribe it to text for you. You can also use your phone or webcam to record a quick video sharing your thoughts.

Don’t get hung up on trying to be Hemingway - just tell your spouse how special they are to you in a few sentences, no matter what format that takes.

How do I get my spouse to write to me?

This is a fantastic question that mirrors one we get all the time from a husband or wife who has what we call a “reluctant spouse.” Whether it’s eating healthy, spending wisely or communicating openly about intimacy, there’s often one spouse who is on-board and one who is not quite ready.

And this certainly applies to writing romantic letters, too. My advice in each case is to lead by example and be the spouse you desire. In other words, take the initiative and write your spouse a letter first - maybe several letters to get their attention. In your letter, you can directly ask them to respond to a question to make it obvious that you desire a response.
And speaking of obvious - ladies, you may very well just need to tell your husband that you’d find a love letter to be extremely romantic. Sometimes we don’t take hints very well, but with the right messaging, trust me, he'll get it!

**Dustin**: In closing, Bethany and I would like to thank you for joining us for this training. By investing some time and energy into learning how to write romantic love letters, you are showing just how much you love and treasure your spouse.

Kudos to you! Please let us know how your letters enhance your relationship - we love to hear success stories and feature them on our site. You can always reach us at EngagedMarriage.com or under “Engaged Marriage” on Facebook or Twitter.

Cheers!