



## SUNDAY LIFESTYLE: Write this way

By Sharon DeMarko-Gordon

— Can a reasonable, self-confident, well-balanced and non-adventurous individual find happiness with an insecure, spontaneous, gullible partner whose social attitudes flounder in a state of flux?

Most certainly, psychic/handwriting interpreter Paula Roberts said of the two main personality types typically found in script analysis.

“Opposites do attract, and some people find differences exciting,” she said.

“But more often than not, people believe they can convert a partner — domestic or business. Personality alteration is not going to happen, barring the rare exception. An extrovert commonly thinks he or she can transform an introvert into a more outgoing personality. Our character traits are too well ingrained by the time we reach adulthood, or even adolescence, for any significant crossover to take place.”

Roberts, author of “Love Letters: The Romantic Secrets Hidden in Our Handwriting,” (out of print, but available on Amazon.com), is one of few handwriting readers who practice what is called graphology or graphoanalysis — if you are an entertainer — or forensic handwriting analysis if you follow the scientific approach, such as tracing forged documents for possible criminal prosecution.

Those who approach the field recreationally and those who practice scientifically are so far apart, the latter won’t talk on the record about the former.

Some analysts, such as Marsha Lesser, began scientifically, then switched to entertainment.

“I have been trained to do anything in handwriting evaluation,” she said, “but I never found the opportunity to apply my talent in the scientific realm. You need a judge to give you a break and that never occurred, so I began doing events. Once in a while, I get a call from someone who wants a boyfriend’s handwriting analyzed or maybe a person who thinks he’s being sabotaged.”

Testimony from a handwriting expert is allowed in court at a judge’s discretion — an infrequent occurrence, according to analysts on both sides of the discipline.

Sheila Lowe, author of “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Handwriting Analysis,” is among the rare group of practitioners who appear on the witness stand and at parties.

“I’ve been testifying in California since 1985 and have far more business in this arena than entertainment,” she said. “Handwriting analysis as an entertainment form went out of favor a long time ago.”

If you’re searching for a personality profiler through penmanship to amuse your guests, you probably will be directed, after more than a dozen phone calls and twice that many Web stops, to **Party Productions NYC** or the California Entertainers Bureau of Los Angeles, depending on your proximity to the talent. Roberts and Lesser are Manhattan residents; Lowe from San Luis Obispo, Calif. You’ll find their names on the rosters of

both agencies, and each company lists Niagara Falls among areas they serve. Scribing specialists travel wherever they're wanted — if you're willing to pay transportation and expenses, plus the agency fee. The fee quoted by CEB sales manager Aeon Dream seemed standard for the industry: \$395 per hour with a two-hour minimum and \$195 for each subsequent hour. Travel is \$40 per hour for day trips, otherwise negotiable.

If the cost sounds high, Roberts said, keep in mind that “the streets aren't exactly paved with us.”

Said Dream: “They're hard to find, because the discipline became highly specialized. Not many entertainers go that route, because audiences are highly sophisticated — they don't want tricks, they want intelligent entertainment with enlightenment. It's not like a Vegas act.”

Lesser finds her clients and their guests want confirmation of self-perceptions.

“I try to make the evaluation experience enjoyable,” she said. “It's not serious, although the training for a professional graphologist or graphoanalyst and one who practices the skill as a diversion is nearly identical. It's the same information, just packaged differently than if you were analyzing for a legal purpose.

“It's an ice-breaker. People walk away pleased, telling each other: ‘Oh, she told me I could be an artist,’ or, ‘She told me I was happy in my job.’ ”

Roberts and Lesser each have about 30 years experience reading the hand-written word. Both emphasize the positive.

“Although I specialize in compatibility between two partners,” Roberts said, “I can't tell whether ultimately they will like each other, or for how long. No one can. But a professional can predict compatibility.”

Roberts does not look for incompatibility, and if she finds it, she moves on to cheerier footing.

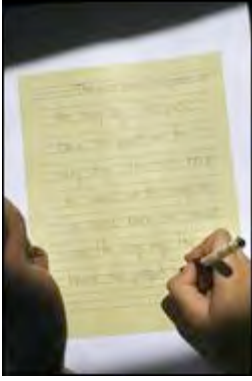
“One person might be sunny of disposition, another moody,” she said. “But I would never say they're incompatible, just that maybe certain traits are revealed in the handwriting that suggest annoyances down the road, especially in domestic situations. Handwriting interpreters are diplomatic, especially if entertaining at a bridal or couples' shower.”

What appears congenial at first read, Roberts said, might not be what partners seek.

“Take, for example, entrepreneurial traits,” she said. “One entrepreneur might not appreciate that predisposition in his or her partner, if it leads to a competitive relationship perhaps detrimental to the business.”

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Experts say handwriting analysis can offer insight into someone's personality.