

# LETTERS TO THE WORLD

## EPISTOLARY CREATIVITY WORKSHOP

WITH SYLVIE CATHRALL  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Amherst College Archives and Special Collections,  
Amherst Manuscript #636



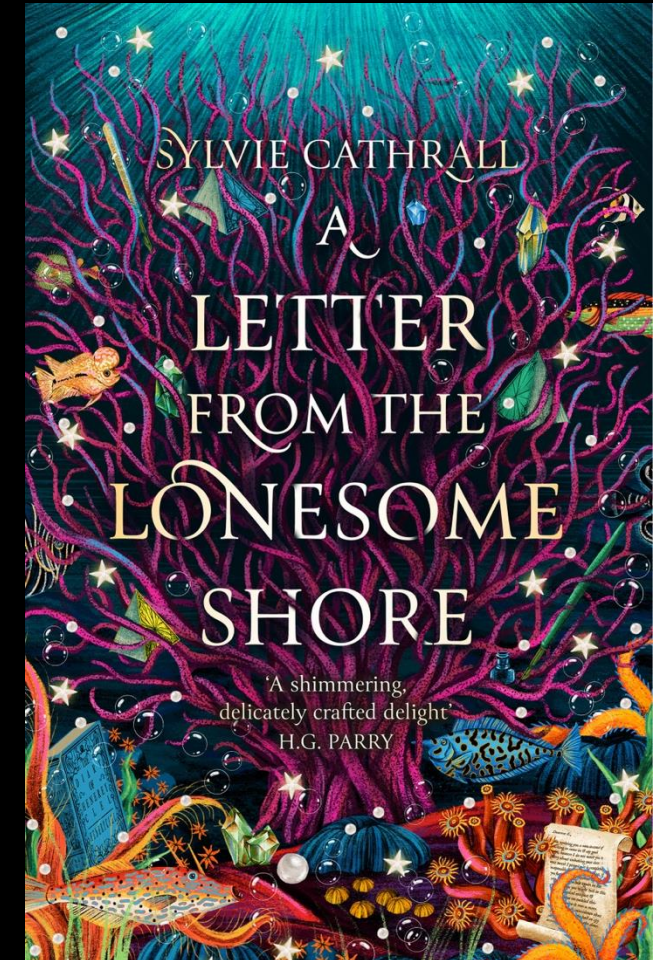
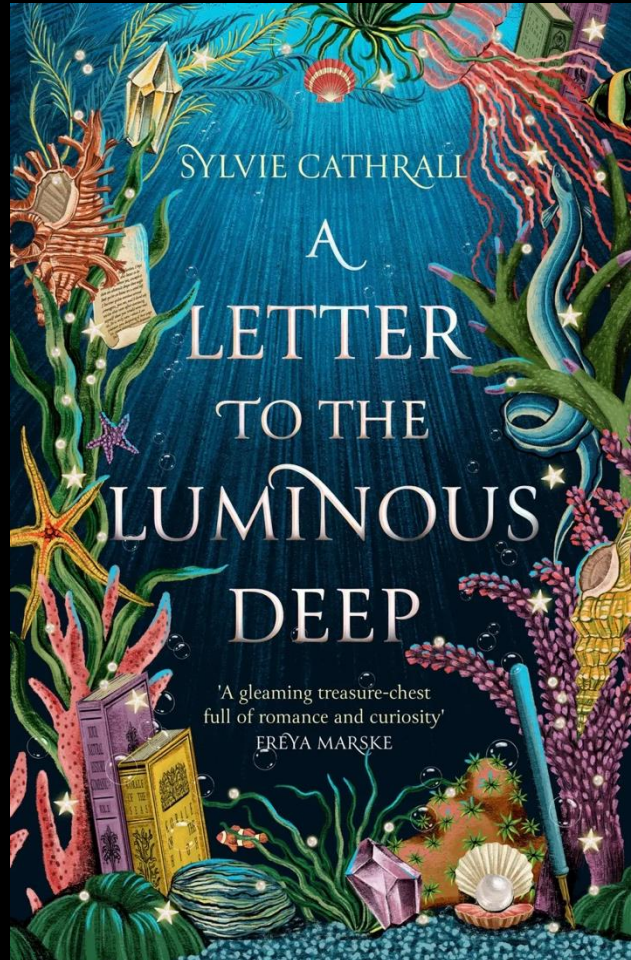
DEAR VINNIE

MANY WRITE THAT THEY DO NOT WRITE  
BECAUSE THAT THEY HAVE TOO MUCH TO  
SAY — I, THAT I HAVE ENOUGH.

Emily Dickinson to Lavinia Dickinson  
*Cambridge, July 1864*



# SYLVIE CATHRALL & THE SUNKEN ARCHIVE



I AM PLEASANTLY LOCATED IN THE DEEP  
SEA, BUT LOVE WILL ROW YOU OUT IF HER  
HANDS ARE STRONG, AND DON'T WAIT TILL  
I LAND, FOR I'M GOING ASHORE ON THE  
OTHER SIDE —

Emily Dickinson to Kate Anthon  
*1859?*





SYLVIE CATHRALL

A

LETTER

...further, I hope  
...later to its  
...better, yes, crumple it  
into an abstract shape that might  
look quite at home on a wall; but  
I become quite anxious around  
strangers, you see, and I don't only  
worry that you would never read  
it. It is only now—when I can  
picture you dipping of those pages  
in some abstractly dramatic  
flood



# STORY

‘A shimmering,  
delicately crafted delight’

H.G. PARRY





76b  
Dear Friend,  
Accept

# LETTER FRAGMENTS

I THINK THERE WILL BE NO SPRING THIS  
YEAR, THE FLOWERS ARE GONE SO FAR. LET  
US HAVE SPRING IN OUR HEART, AND NEVER  
MIND THE ORCHISES!

Emily Dickinson to Mary Bowles  
*After Christmas 1859*





# A LETTER TO A SEASON “IN YOUR HEART”

*Diana—La Primavera*  
Collection of the Emily Dickinson Museum



THE CAKE, GINGERBREAD, PIE & PEACHES  
ARE ALL DEVoured, BUT THE – APPLES –  
CHESTNUTS & GRAPES STILL REMAIN & WILL  
I HOPE FOR SOME TIME.

**Emily Dickinson to Austin Dickinson**  
*South Hadley, 21 October 1847*



$\frac{1}{2}$  cup Butter  

---

2 eggs  

---

1 cup Sugar  

---

Yeast - 1.0 +  
Yeast  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  nutmeg -  
salt -  
milk - 2  
cups

889

# A LETTER TO A TASTE “DEVoured”

“Kate’s doughnuts,” Amherst College Archives & Special Collections,  
Amherst Manuscript #889



# HAVE YOU BLOSSOMS AND BOOKS, THOSE SOLACES OF SORROW?

**Emily Dickinson to Charles H. Clark**  
*January 1885*



*Emily Elizabeth, Austin, and Lavinia Dickinson,*  
Otis Allen Bullard, c. 1840.

Harvard University Portrait Collection,  
Gift of Gilbert H. Montague to the Houghton Library, 1950







A LETTER TO A “SOLACE OF SORROW”  
(BLOSSOM OR BOOK OR ...)



I KNOW NOT HOW TO THANK YOU. WE DO  
NOT THANK THE RAINBOW, ALTHOUGH IT'S  
TROPHY IS A SNARE.

Emily Dickinson to Mabel Loomis Todd  
*September 1882*



# A THANK-YOU LETTER TO NATURE



John Frederick Kensett, *Sunset with Cows*, 1856. 2021.5.141  
Collection of the Emily Dickinson Museum

A LETTER ALWAYS FEELS TO ME LIKE  
IMMORTALITY BECAUSE IT IS THE MIND  
ALONE WITHOUT CORPOREAL FRIEND.

Emily Dickinson to Thomas Wentworth Higginson  
*June 1869*

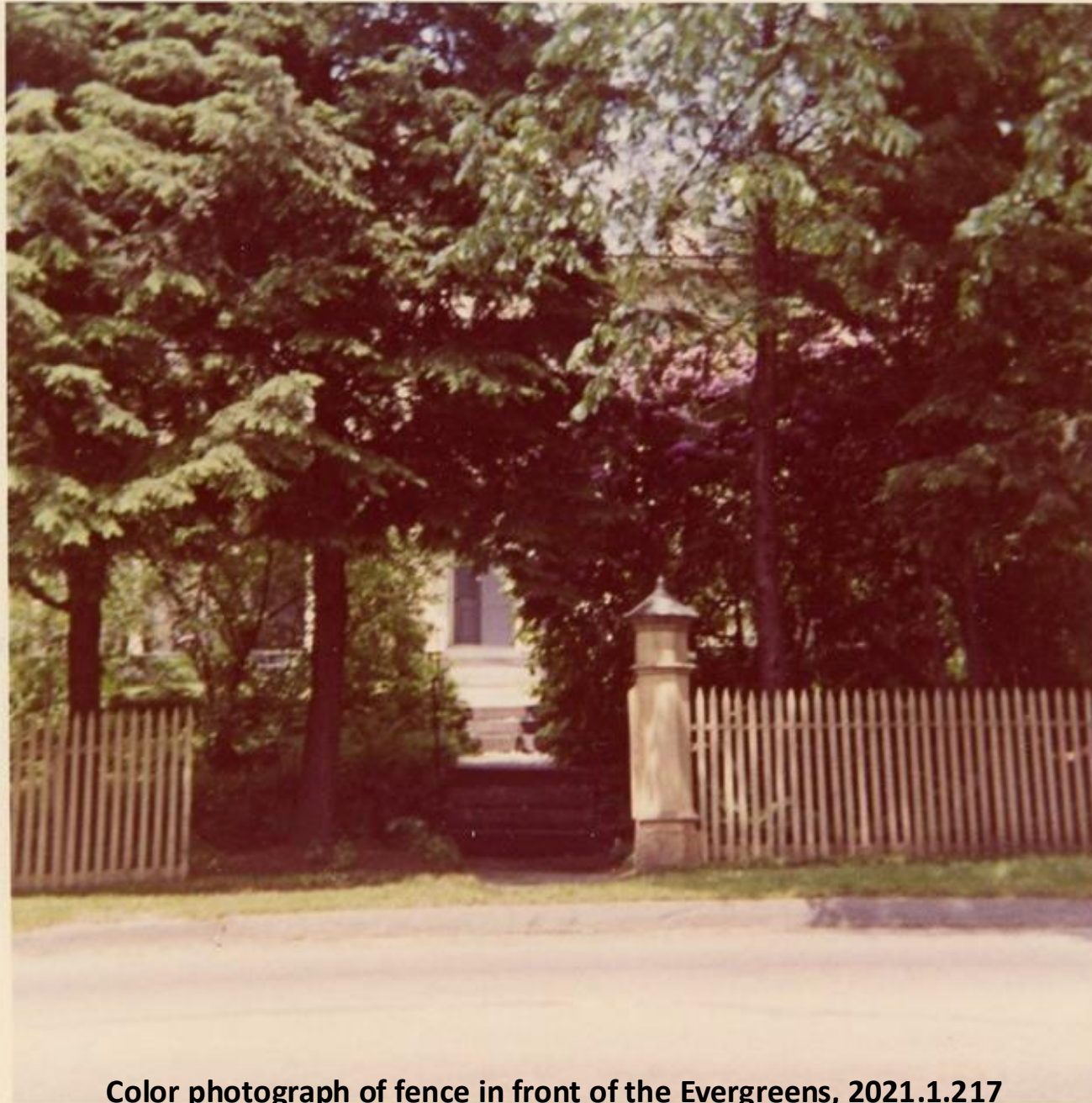


# A LETTER TO YOUR “MIND ALONE”

Rectangular mirror with wooden frame, 2021.5.24  
Collection of the Emily Dickinson Museum







Color photograph of fence in front of the Evergreens, 2021.1.217  
Collection of the Emily Dickinson Museum



THANK YOU!

SINCE I HAVE NO SWEET FLOWER TO SEND  
YOU, I ENCLOSE MY HEART; A LITTLE ONE,  
SUNBURNT, HALF BROKEN SOMETIMES, YET  
CLOSE AS THE SPANIEL, TO IT'S FRIENDS.

**Emily Dickinson to Mary Bowles**  
*December 1858*