

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

“Porter’s captivating memoir describes her journey to find answers, noting how her fascination with Marcel proved infectious as she faces obstacle after obstacle and enlists the help of experts to discover the fate that awaited him. ... As impressive as her detective work is, it is Marcel and his letters—real, honest, heartfelt, and brave—that are undoubtedly the star of this marvelous book.”

—BOOKLIST ★ STARRED REVIEW *May 15, 2017*

“It’s a pleasure to read Porter’s romantic dive into the depths of the lost art of letter writing and contained worlds. Porter and Marcel both ask their readers to slow down, look closer and let passion persist, even if one is alone on a soulful search.”

—MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE *June 16, 2017*

“Regardless of your disciplinary tribe, I recommend reading *Marcel’s Letters* to learn more about designer-driven empathy in action. All design educators, whatever academic department, should add this book to their reading recommendations, even make it required, to provide a well-covered insider account of design as object-making adjacent to design as giving a damn.”

—DESIGNFEAST

“[A] tribute to the power of curiosity.” —GROWLER MAGAZINE

“*Marcel’s Letters* deftly portrays how a curiosity can grow into a search, and the search into an obsession. Carolyn’s story bursts with the excitement of discovery and culminates with the indescribable honor of returning fragments of a forgotten history to the people they were meant for.”

—GLENN KURTZ, author of *Three Minutes in Poland: Discovering a Lost World in a 1938 Family Film*

“We pick a font hoping it says something about us: that we are creative, intellectual, or have business know-how. But what happens when a font picks a graphic designer and turns her world upside down and inside out?”

In *Marcel’s Letters*, Carolyn rescues one man’s legacy, and ultimately gifts us with her own.”

—ELIZABETH RYNECKI, author of *Chasing Portraits: A Great-Granddaughter’s Quest for Her Lost Art Legacy*

“[An] intriguing memoir from a diligent researcher.” —KIRKUS REVIEWS

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# Marcel's Letters

A FONT AND THE SEARCH FOR ONE MAN'S FATE

WWW.CAROLYN-PORTER.COM

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

“An absolutely engaging and inherently fascinating read from first page to last, *Marcel's Letters: A Font and the Search for One Man's Fate* is an extraordinary story—one that will linger in the mind and memory long after the book is finished and set back upon the shelf.. Unreservedly recommended, especially for community and academic library collections.”

—MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

“*Marcel's Letters* is a gripping page-turner about one type designer's efforts to uncover (and recover) the destiny of a French forced laborer during World War II.”

—YVES PETERS, type writer and producer for Type Network

“Carolyn Porter takes us on her offbeat quest to solve a transatlantic history mystery and unearths an intriguing pocket of our past along the way.”

—MEGAN SMOLENYAK, author of *Who Do You Think You Are? The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History*

“Quirky, heartfelt, and compulsively readable. *Marcel's Letters* is an inventive combination of memoir and amateur historical sleuthing. An unforgettable story.”

—THERESA KAMINSKI, author of *Angels of the Underground:*

*The American Women who Resisted the Japanese in the Philippines in World War II*

“In *Marcel's Letters* Carolyn Porter has plucked a powerful story from the recesses of history. After purchasing a trove of letters because of their elegant script, Porter embarked on a quest to solve the mystery of their authorship and in so doing embarked on a historical awakening of her own.”

—CATHRYN J. PRINCE, author of *American Daredevil: The Extraordinary Life*

*of Richard Halliburton, the World's First Celebrity Travel Writer*

“Fascinated by the handwriting, Carolyn Porter's chance purchase of a few letters led her to a remarkable adventure in font design, research to understand the wartime separation of a father from his wife and children, and a quest to uncover Marcel's fate in the Second World War and that of his family. *Marcel's Letters* tells a compelling story of romance, perseverance, and discovery.”

—PROFESSOR KENNETH MOURÉ, historian of modern France, University of Alberta

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“I’ve made many fonts, but none of them has a story with as many unexpected discoveries and emotional turns as the story of Marcel.”

—MARK SIMONSON, Mark Simonson Studio,  
designer of more than thirty fonts, including the iconic Proxima Nova

“[Porter] manages to balance the several strands of her adventures—the history lessons, the details of creating a font, the inner workings of her marriage, and the clues that point to the eventual outcomes. The reader will rejoice with her when things go well and cry with her when she faces discouragement. It’s a great story.”

—MILITARY WRITERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA

“I was struck by the emotional power and unfailing commitment to Marcel’s memory, a life that would have been anonymous—just one of many individuals forced by the Nazis to forever alter their lives.”

—STEVEN HELLER, “A Typographic Detective Tale,” *Print* magazine February 12, 2018

“It’s evident on every page that Porter put her heart and soul into her research, and an equally passionate and tenacious support group aided her in uncovering all of Marcel’s secrets. This book is a special read, one that will make you laugh and cry in equal measure.”

— WRITER’S BONE, “16 Books That Should Be On Your Radar: September 2017”  
and “35 Best Books of 2017” list

“This book captured me from the beginning. I loved Carolyn’s forthright writing style; it was as though she were sitting in my living room talking to me. When Carolyn was thinking about Marcel and his loved ones, I was thinking about Marcel and his loved ones. When she was anxious, I was anxious; when she celebrated, I celebrated. This was a beautiful book, and I highly recommend it.”

— ABIGAIL ADAMS, *PolitiChicks*

“An incredible and unlikely story ... you will forevermore be obsessed with fonts.”

— VALLEY BOOKSELLER



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