

# AN ALPHABET FOR ALINA

*An Alphabet for Alina* is a sequence of poems and images by poet Frances Presley and artist Peterjon Skelt. It finds new ways to exploit the lexical and visual possibilities of the alphabet. Thematically the letters begin with the traditional 'a' for 'apple' but also include the unexpected and unsettling, such as 'o' for 'on/off' and 'u' for 'mušhušū'. Presley and Skelt have worked together on other sequences in the past, such as *Private Writings*, but this is their first collaborative book.

'Supple paths of sound weave letters to landings in familiar and unfamiliar places. The letters are just the start. Walking, skipping, jumping, lying on syllables, Frances Presley's alphabet follows quick turns, obvious and unexpected, to explore the honeycomb of language, its many passages sweet and glowing. Peterjon Skelt's drawings follow and lead, their spare line lolling with shapes, emblematic and surreal, speaking back to the poems.

Savour the conversation!'

*William Rowe*

'A sophisticated and charmingly witty treasure-book alphabet made for a favorite girl-child, but really for all of us, with layered lexicons, oblique allusions, perky proverbs, magical moments, visual variety, tropes and tunes all scintillating on the page.'

*Rachel Blau DuPlessis*, author of *Drafts*

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