

BEGIN NOW

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In the following love poem all the words are in alphabetical order. I am indebted to the much more extensive, if much less sensible and syntactical, *Legendary, Lexical, Loquacious Love* by Eve Rhymer. Her work contains all the words from a romance novel, alphabetized into 25 chapters (no X). A more sensible and very impressive work of this sort is the last chapter of Walter Abish's novel *Alphabetical Africa*, a list of alphabetized two-word phrases that recapitulate the novel.

abashed admiration
 (allicient, aloof)
 already, an anticipation, anxiousness,
 arbitrary, assiduous attraction.
 beatific beauty beckoning ...
 begin, beholder. believe, by chance!
 changeable character, clod, clumsy;
 commit, communicate. completely connect,
 construct daring discourse.
 each elusive entrée,
 enunciations--every
 exclamation--excruciating.
 finally fizzling: flippant?
 flowery? foolish, futile
 greeting, grim hesitation.
 I, inarticulate! inept,
 initially, joining, laboriously, language.
 listless locutor, mealy-mouthed.
 necessary nervousness not
 now over, painful paroxysm
 plagues, progress prohibited.
 prolix pronouncer--really
 reticent, rigid, scared!
 seeking sign,
 signifier, simply some speech.
 staring, steely. stirring.
 suddenly sure, the time transpires ...
 tranquil, truly trusting. try. ultimately,
 understanding, verbally, vulnerably
 wishing with words,
 writing you.