Today, the ADLaM alphabet is used by over 4 million people in West Africa and around the world. But that wasn’t always the case...

ADLaM began as a childhood dream of two young brothers from Guinea. Abdoulaye and Ibrahima Barry grew up speaking Pulaar (the native tongue of the Fula people) but not writing it. For centuries it was a spoken language with no alphabet.

The Barry brothers dedicated their lives to changing that.

They created letters, systems, typographies and eventually literacy programs where their alphabet could be taught and learned.

This book is a book designed to be just one more step in realizing their life-long dream of bringing literacy to the Fulani people through the alphabet they spent their entire lives making.
HORN

A
FULANI FLUTE

SA
PASTURE
CROCODILE

NA
TIGER

TCHA
CALABASH

HA
HIPPOPOTAMUS

GA
ANT

NYA
SHEPHERD’S HAT

TA
GOAT

MBA
With sincere and endless gratitude to Ibrahima and Abdoulaye Barry—brothers whose life’s work stands as a beacon for those who would change this world for the better.