

## Complete Novels Franz Kafka

Dearest Father Jackals and Arabs The Penguin Complete Short Stories of Franz Kafka The Metamorphosis (Legend Classics) The Complete Novels of James Joyce Understanding Franz Kafka The Complete Stories He: Shorter Writings of Franz Kafka (riverrun editions) Letters to Ottla and the Family Franz Kafka: The Best Works Proměna The Essential Kafka The Trial / Der Proceß The Satanic Verses Franz Kafka The Metamorphosis Childhood Anthologie Franz Kafka The Metamorphosis + In the Penal Colony (2 contemporary translations by Ian Johnston) The Penguin Complete Novels of Franz Kafka Parables in German and English The Complete Stories Introducing Kafka Collected Stories The Complete Novels The Metamorphosis: A New Translation by Susan Bernofsky The Complete Short Stories of Franz Kafka Aphorisms The Lost Writings The Cambridge Introduction to Franz Kafka The Great Wall of China Letters to Friends, Family, and Editors Poor Folk Anthology Selected Short Stories The Basic Kafka Makers of Jewish Modernity Kafka on the Shore The Sons The Brothers Karamazov Letters to Felice

### Dearest Father

This edition contains the English translation and the original text in German. "The Trial" (original German title: "Der Prozess", later "Der Prozess", "Der Proceß" and "Der Prozeß") is a novel written by Franz Kafka in 1914 and 1915 but not published until 1925. One of Kafka's best-known works, it tells the story of a man arrested and prosecuted by a remote, inaccessible authority, with the nature of his crime revealed neither to him nor the reader. Like Kafka's other novels, "The Trial" was never completed, although it does include a chapter which brings the story to an end. Because of this, there are some inconsistencies and discontinuities in narration within the novel, such as disparities in timing. After Kafka's death in 1924 his friend and literary executor Max Brod edited the text for publication by Verlag Die Schmiede. The original manuscript is held at the Museum of Modern Literature, Marbach am Neckar, Germany. In 1999, the book was listed in "Le Monde"'s 100 Books of the Century and as No. 2 of the Best German Novels of the Twentieth Century. "Der Prozess" (auch "Der Prozeß" oder "Der Proceß", Titel der Erstausgabe: "Der Prozess") ist neben "Der Verschollene" (auch unter dem Titel "Amerika" bekannt) und "Das Schloss" einer von drei unvollendeten und postum erschienenen Romanen von Franz Kafka.

### Jackals and Arabs

(Book Jacket Status: Jacketed) Franz Kafka's imagination so far outstripped the forms and conventions of the literary tradition he inherited that he was forced to turn that tradition inside out in order to tell his splendid, mysterious tales. Scrupulously naturalistic on the surface, uncanny in their depths, these stories represent the achieved art of a modern master who had the gift of making our problematic spiritual life palpable and real. This edition of his stories includes all his

available shorter fiction in a collection edited, arranged, and introduced by Gabriel Josipovici in ways that bring out the writer's extraordinary range and intensity of vision. Translated by Willa and Edwin Muir

## **The Penguin Complete Short Stories of Franz Kafka**

The explosion of a jetliner over India triggers an Apocalyptic battle that sweeps across the subcontinent. Reprint.

## **The Metamorphosis (Legend Classics)**

Kafka on the Shore displays one of the world's great storytellers at the peak of his powers. Here we meet a teenage boy, Kafka Tamura, who is on the run, and Nakata, an aging simpleton who is drawn to Kafka for reasons that he cannot fathom. As their paths converge, acclaimed author Haruki Murakami enfolds readers in a world where cats talk, fish fall from the sky, and spirits slip out of their bodies to make love or commit murder, in what is a truly remarkable journey.

## **The Complete Novels of James Joyce**

Anglicko-česká verze klasického Kafkova díla Kafkova povídka Proměna (Die Verwandlung), publikovaná r. 1915, je považována za klíčové dílo krátké prózy 20. století. Obsahuje typické kafkovské prvky jako absurditu, pocit bezvýchodnosti, tragicko-komické momenty. Je těžké rozhodnout, co vlastně proměna ve hmyz znamená. Zda jde o sen, symbolické zobrazení osamělosti a bezradnosti či obraz měšťanské strnulosti a povrchní morálky. Profesor německé literatury Stanley Corngold z univerzity v Princetonu uvádí ve své knize Komentátorova beznaděj (The Commentator's Dispair) až sto třicet různých vysvětlení. Díky německé větné stavbě Kafka v originálu často používá momentu překvapení a zvratu na samém konci věty. To je pak samozřejmě oříšek pro překladatele. I samotný překlad slova ungeziefer není zcela přesný, protože kromě hmyzu ve středověké němčině toto slovo znamená nečisté zvíře nevhodné k uctívání, jakousi havěť. V naší publikaci naleznete anglický a český překlad povídky. Nejsou zcela identické a bude jistě zajímavé porovnat, jak si který z překladatelů s původním německým textem pohrál. Nicméně čeština Vám jistě pomůže tam, kde Vám bude angličtina připadat nesrozumitelná. Věříme, že si z obou překladů mnohé odnesete a kromě čtení samotného se přiučíte i něčemu novému v anglickém jazyce. Anglický text si můžete poslechnout na nahrávce ke stažení. V publikaci také naleznete jazykové komentáře.

## **Understanding Franz Kafka**

"Jackals and Arabs" (German: "Schakale und Araber") is a short story by Franz Kafka, written and published in 1917. The

story was first published by Martin Buber in the German monthly "Der Jude". It appeared again in the collection "Ein Landarzt" ("A Country Doctor") in 1919.

## **The Complete Stories**

### **He: Shorter Writings of Franz Kafka (riverrun editions)**

'Being asked to write about Kafka is like being asked to describe the Great Wall of China by someone who's standing just next to it. The only honest thing to do is point.' Joshua Cohen, from his preface to He: Shorter Writings of Franz Kafka This is a Kafka emergency kit, a congregation of the brief, the minor works that are actually major. Joshua Cohen has produced a frame that refuses distinctions between what is a story, a letter, a workplace memo and a diary entry, also including popular favourites like The Bucket Rider, The Penal Colony and The Burrow. Here we see Kafka's preoccupations in writing about animals, messiah variations, food and exercise, each in his signature style. Cohen's selection emphasises the stately structure of utterly coherent logic, within an utterly incoherent illogical world, showing how Kafka harnessed the humblest grammar to metamorphic power until the predominant effect ceases to be the presence of an unreliable narrator, but the absence of the universe's only reliable narrator. Who is God.

### **Letters to Ottla and the Family**

The Metamorphosis (German, Die Verwandlung), a novella by Franz Kafka is cited as one of the seminal works of fiction of the 20th century and is studied in colleges and universities across the Western world. This edition contains both the original German together with a parallel translation in English for easy study and cross-reference. Gregor Samsa, a traveling salesman, wakes to find himself transformed (metamorphosed) into a large, monstrous insect-like creature. The cause of Gregor's transformation is never revealed, and Kafka himself never gave an explanation. The novella deals with Gregor's attempts to adjust to his new condition as he deals with being burdensome to his parents and sister, who are repulsed by the horrible, verminous creature Gregor has become.

### **Franz Kafka: The Best Works**

Part of the Legend Classics seriesAs Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect.The Metamorphosis - the masterpiece of Franz Kafka - was first published in 1915 and is one of the seminal works of fiction of the twentieth century. The novel is cited as a key influence for many of today's leading

authors; as Auden wrote: "Kafka is important to us because his predicament is the predicament of modern man". Traveling salesman, Gregor Samsa, wakes to find himself transformed into a large, monstrous insect-like creature. The cause of Gregor's transformation is never revealed, and as he attempts to adjust to his new condition he becomes a burden to his parents and sister, who are repelled by the horrible, verminous creature Gregor has become. A harrowing, yet strangely comic, meditation on human feelings of inadequacy, guilt, and isolation, *The Metamorphosis* has taken its place as one of the most widely read and influential works of twentieth-century fiction. The Legend Classics series: *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Metamorphosis*, *The Railway Children*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Frankenstein*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Three Men in a Boat*, *The Time Machine*, *Little Women*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Yellow Wallpaper and Other Stories*, *Dracula*, *A Study in Scarlet*, *Leaves of Grass*, *The Secret Garden*, *The War of the Worlds*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *Heart of Darkness*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *This Side of Paradise*, *Oliver Twist*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Treasure Island*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Emma*, *The Trial*, *A Selection of Short Stories by Edgar Allen Poe*, *Grimm Fairy Tales*

## **Proměna**

Written by Kafka between 1909 and 1924, these letters offer a unique insight into the workings of the Kafka family, their relationship with the Prague Jewish community, and Kafka's own feelings about his parents and siblings. A gracious but shy woman, and a silent rebel against the bourgeois society in which she lived, Ottla Kafka was the sibling to whom Kafka felt closest. He had a special affection for her simplicity, her integrity, her ability to listen, and her pride in his work. Ottla was deported to Theresienstadt during World War II, and volunteered to accompany a transport of children to Auschwitz in 1943. She did not survive the war, but her husband and daughters did, and preserved her brother's letters to her. They were published in the original German in 1974, and in English in 1982. "Kafka's touching letters to his sister, when she was a child and as a young married woman, are beautifully simple, tender, and fresh. In them one sees the side of his nature that was not estranged. It is lucky they have been preserved." —V. S. Pritchett, *The New York Review of Books*

## **The Essential Kafka**

Published together for the first time are selections from all Kafka's writings: *The Metamorphosis*, *Josephine The Singer*, plus his short stories, parables, and his personal diaries and letters.

## **The Trial / Der Proceß**

This superb collection presents more than forty incisive portraits of leading Jewish thinkers, artists, scientists, and other

public figures of the last hundred years who, in their own unique ways, engaged with and helped shape the modern world. *Makers of Jewish Modernity* features entries on political figures such as Walther Rathenau, Rosa Luxemburg, and David Ben-Gurion; philosophers and critics such as Walter Benjamin, Hannah Arendt, Isaiah Berlin, Jacques Derrida, and Judith Butler; and artists such as Mark Rothko. The book provides fresh insights into the lives and careers of novelists like Franz Kafka, Saul Bellow, and Philip Roth; the filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen; social scientists such as Sigmund Freud; religious leaders and thinkers such as Avraham Kook and Martin Buber; and many others. Written by a diverse group of leading contemporary scholars from around the world, these vibrant and frequently surprising portraits offer a global perspective that highlights the multiplicity of Jewish experience and thought. A reference book like no other, *Makers of Jewish Modernity* includes an informative general introduction that situates its subjects within the broader context of Jewish modernity as well as a rich selection of photos.

## **The Satanic Verses**

### **Franz Kafka**

"Kafka brought to the tradition of the great Yiddish storytellers an almost unbearably expanded consciousness. Alienated from his roots, his family, his surroundings, and primarily from his own body, Kafka created a unique literary language. David Mairowitz's brilliant text is illustrated by one of the world's greatest underground comic artists, Robert Crumb."

## **The Metamorphosis**

A collection of stories, fables, and aphorisms, written between 1917 and 1924.

## **Childhood Anthologie**

### **Franz Kafka**

## **The Metamorphosis + In the Penal Colony (2 contemporary translations by Ian Johnston)**

## **The Penguin Complete Novels of Franz Kafka**

Anthology containing: Poor Folk The Double Notes From The Underground Crime and Punishment The Gambler The Idiot The Possessed (The Devils) A Raw Youth The Dream of a Ridiculous Man The Brothers Karamazov

## **Parables in German and English**

This volume contains all of Kafka's shorter fiction, from fragments, parables and sketches to longer tales. Together they reveal the breadth of Kafka's literary vision and the extraordinary imaginative depth of his thought. Some are well-known, others are mere jottings, observations of daily life, given artistic form through Kafka's unique perception of the world.

## **The Complete Stories**

Franz Kafka (1883-1924) is one of the most influential of modern authors, whose darkly fascinating novels and stories - where themes such as power, punishment and alienation loom large - have become emblematic of modern life. This Introduction offers a clear and accessible account of Kafka's life, work and literary influence and overturns many myths surrounding them. His texts are in fact far more engaging, diverse, light-hearted and ironic than is commonly suggested by clichés of 'the Kafkaesque'. And, once explored in detail, they are less difficult and impenetrable than is often assumed. Through close analysis of their style, imagery and narrative perspective, Carolin Duttlinger aims to give readers the confidence to (re-)discover Kafka's works without constant recourse to the mantras of critical orthodoxy. In addition, she situates Kafka's texts within their wider cultural, historical and political contexts illustrating how they respond to the concerns of their age, and of our own.

## **Introducing Kafka**

## **Collected Stories**

"These magnificent letters, meticulously set up and annotated, show us aspects of Kafka that were only hinted at in earlier collections and help us trace his development from unhappy young law student and insurance administrator to novelist and short-story writer of originality and genius." --Publishers Weekly "When we turn from Kafka's books to his letters we have a series of self-portraits desperate and courageous, always eager and warm in feeling; the self is lit by fantasy and, of course, by drollery. His candor is of the kind that flies alongside him in the air. He was a marvelous letter writer." --V.S. Pritchett,

The New York Review of Books "These letters are like messages from the underground, from the dark side of the moon, presenting aspects of Kafka that would have died with his friends. We meet alternately Kafka the artist, friend, son, father figure, marriage counselor, literary critic, insurance official. . . . A full portrait, and a significant contribution to Kafka scholarship." --Smithsonian Magazine "An inside view of a writer who, perhaps more than any other novelist or poet in our century, stands at the center of our culture." --Robert Alter, The New York Times Book Review

## **The Complete Novels**

In Stanley Corngold's view, the themes and strategies of Kafka's fiction are generated by a tension between his concern for writing and his growing sense of its arbitrary character. Analyzing Kafka's work in light of "the necessity of form," which is also a merely formal necessity, Corngold uncovers the fundamental paradox of Kafka's art and life. The first section of the book shows how Kafka's rhetoric may be understood as the daring project of a man compelled to live his life as literature. In the central part of the book, Corngold reflects on the place of Kafka within the modern tradition, discussing such influential precursors of Cervantes, Flaubert, and Nietzsche, whose works display a comparable narrative disruption. Kafka's distinctive narrative strategies, Corngold points out, demand interpretation at the same time they resist it. Critics of Kafka, he says, must be aware that their approaches are guided by the principles that Kafka's fiction identifies, dramatizes, and rejects.

## **The Metamorphosis: A New Translation by Susan Bernofsky**

"This fine version, with David Cronenberg's inspired introduction and the new translator's beguiling afterword, is, I suspect, the most disturbing though the most comforting of all so far; others will follow, but don't hesitate: this is the transforming text for you."—Richard Howard Franz Kafka's 1915 novella of unexplained horror and nightmarish transformation became a worldwide classic and remains a century later one of the most widely read works of fiction in the world. It is the story of traveling salesman Gregor Samsa, who wakes one morning to find himself transformed into a monstrous insect. This hugely influential work inspired George Orwell, Albert Camus, Jorge Louis Borges, and Ray Bradbury, while continuing to unsettle millions of readers. In her new translation of Kafka's masterpiece, Susan Bernofsky strives to capture both the humor and the humanity in this macabre tale, underscoring the ways in which Gregor Samsa's grotesque metamorphosis is just the physical manifestation of his longstanding spiritual impoverishment.

## **The Complete Short Stories of Franz Kafka**

This ebook compiles Franz Kafka's greatest writings, including novels, novellas, short stories and parables such as

"Amerika", "The Trial", "The Metamorphosis", "The Castle", "In the Penal Colony", "A Hunger Artist" and "The Great Wall of China". This edition has been professionally formatted and contains several tables of contents. The first table of contents (at the very beginning of the ebook) lists the titles of all novels included in this volume. By clicking on one of those titles you will be redirected to the beginning of that work, where you'll find a new TOC that lists all the chapters and sub-chapters of that specific work.

## **Aphorisms**

Three brothers and their relations in 19th century Russia provide the base for a sweeping epic overview of human striving, folly and hope. First published in 1880, *The Brothers Karamazov* is a landmark work in every respect. Revolving around shiftless father Fyodor Pavlovich Karamazov are the fates of his three sons, each of whom has fortunes entwined with the others. The eldest son, Dimitri, seeks an inheritance from his father and becomes his rival in love. Ivan, the second son, is so at odds with the world that he is driven near to madness, while the youngest, Alexi, is a man of faith and a natural optimist. These personalities are drawn out and tested in a crucible of conflict and emotion as the author forces upon them fundamental questions of morality, faith, reason and responsibility. This charged situation is pushed to its limit by the addition of the unthinkable, murder and possible patricide. Using shifting viewpoints and delving into the minds of his characters, Dostoevsky adopted fresh techniques to tell his wide-reaching story with power and startling effectiveness. *The Brothers Karamazov* remains one of the most respected and celebrated novels in all literature and continues to reward readers beyond expectation. With an eye-catching new cover, and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of *The Brothers Karamazov* is both modern and readable.

## **The Lost Writings**

The complete novels of one of the greatest German writers of all time, collected together in one literary masterpiece. Kafka's characters are victims of forces beyond their control, estranged and rootless citizens deceived by authoritarian power. Filled with claustrophobic description and existential profundity, Kafka has been compared to a literary Woody Allen. In *The Trial* Joseph K is relentlessly hunted for a crime that remains nameless. *The Castle* follows K in his ceaseless attempts to enter the castle and to belong somewhere. In *Amerika* Karl Rossmann also finds himself isolated and confused when he is 'packed off to America by his parents'. Here, ordinary immigrants are also strange, and 'America' is never quite as real as it seems. THE CLASSIC TRANSLATION BY WILLA AND EDWIN MUIR

## **The Cambridge Introduction to Franz Kafka**

## **The Great Wall of China**

Franz Kafka first met Felice Bauer in August 1912, at the home of his friend Max Brod. The twenty-five-year-old career woman from Berlin—energetic, down-to-earth, life-affirming—awakened in him a desire to marry. Kafka wrote to Felice almost daily, sometimes even twice a day. Because he was living in Prague and she in Berlin, their letters became their sole source of knowledge of each other. But soon after their engagement in 1914, Kafka began having doubts about the relationship, fearing that marriage would imperil his dedication to writing and interfere with his need for solitude. Through their break-up, a second engagement in 1917, and their final parting later that year, when Kafka began falling ill with the tuberculosis that would eventually claim his life, their correspondence continued. The more than five hundred letters that Kafka wrote to Felice over the course of those five years were acquired by Schocken from her in 1955. They reveal the full measure of Kafka's inner turmoil as he tried, in vain, to balance his need for stability with the demands of his craft. "These letters are indispensable for anyone seeking a more intimate knowledge of Kafka and his fragmented world." —Library Journal

## **Letters to Friends, Family, and Editors**

Franz Kafka is without question one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century despite the fact that much of his work remained unpublished when he died at a relatively young age in 1924. Kafka's eccentric methods of composition and his diffident attitude toward publishing left most of his writing to be edited and published after his death by his literary executor, Max Brod. In *Understanding Franz Kafka*, Allen Thiher addresses the development of Kafka's work by analyzing it in terms of its chronological unfolding, emphasizing the various phases in Kafka's life that can be discerned in his constant quest to find a meaning for his writing. Thiher also shows that Kafka's work, frequently self-referential, explores the ways literature can have meaning in a world in which writing is a dubious activity. After outlining Kafka's life using new biographical information, Thiher examines Kafka's first attempts at writing, often involving nearly farcical experiments. The study then shows how Kafka's work developed through twists and turns, beginning with the breakthrough stories "The Judgment" and "The Metamorphosis," continuing with his first attempt at a novel with *Amerika*, and followed by Kafka's shifting back and forth between short fiction and two other unpublished novels, *The Trial* and *The Castle*. Thiher also calls on Kafka's notebooks and diaries. These help demonstrate that Kafka never stopped experimenting in his attempt to find a literary form that might satisfy his desire to create some kind of transcendental literary text in an era in which the transcendent is at best an object of nostalgia or of comic derision. In short, Thiher contends, Kafka constantly sought the grounds for writing in a world in which all appears groundless.

## **Poor Folk Anthology**

Includes James Joyce's three novels, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Ulysses and Finnegans Wake. It also includes the short story collection, Dubliners.

## **Selected Short Stories**

Franz Kafka has given his name to a world of nightmare, but in Kafka's world, it is never completely clear just what the nightmare is. Kafka deals in dark and quirkily humorous terms with the insoluble dilemmas of a world which offers no reassurance, and no reliable guidance to resolving our existential and emotional uncertainties and anxieties.

## **The Basic Kafka**

This carefully crafted ebook: "The Metamorphosis + In the Penal Colony (2 contemporary translations by Ian Johnston)" contains 2 books in one volume and is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. The Metamorphosis is a novella by Franz Kafka, first published in 1915. It has been cited as one of the seminal works of fiction of the 20th century and is studied in colleges and universities across the Western world. The story begins with a traveling salesman, Gregor Samsa, waking to find himself transformed (metamorphosed) into a large, monstrous insect-like creature. The cause of Samsa's transformation is never revealed, and Kafka never did give an explanation. The rest of Kafka's novella deals with Gregor's attempts to adjust to his new condition as he deals with being burdensome to his parents and sister, who are repulsed by the horrible, verminous creature Gregor has become. "In the Penal Colony" is a short story by Franz Kafka written in German in October 1914, and first published in October 1919. The story is set in an unnamed penal colony. Internal clues and the setting on an island suggest Octave Mirbeau's The Torture Garden as an influence. As in some of Kafka's other writings, the narrator in this story seems detached from, or perhaps numbed by, events that one would normally expect to be registered with horror. In the Penal Colony describes the last use of an elaborate torture and execution device that carves the sentence of the condemned prisoner on his skin before letting him die, all in the course of twelve hours. As the plot unfolds, the reader learns more and more about the machine, including its origin and original justification. Franz Kafka (1883 - 1924) was a German-language writer of novels and short stories, regarded by critics as one of the most influential authors of the 20th century. Kafka strongly influenced genres such as existentialism. Most of his works, such as The Metamorphosis, The Trial, and The Castle, are filled with the themes and archetypes of alienation, physical and psychological brutality, parent-child conflict, characters on a terrifying quest, labyrinths of bureaucracy, and mystical transformations.

## **Makers of Jewish Modernity**

A windfall for every reader: a trove of marvelous impossible-to-find Kafka stories in a masterful new translation by Michael Hofmann Selected by the preeminent Kafka biographer and scholar Reiner Stach and newly translated by the peerless Michael Hofmann, the seventy-four pieces gathered here have been lost to sight for decades and two of them have never been translated into English before. Some stories are several pages long; some run about a page; a handful are only a few lines long: all are marvels. Even the most fragmentary texts are revelations. These pieces were drawn from two large volumes of the S. Fischer Verlag edition *Nachgelassene Schriften und Fragmente* (totaling some 1100 pages). "Franz Kafka is the master of the literary fragment," as Stach comments in his afterword: "In no other European author does the proportion of completed and published works loom quite so small in the overall mass of his papers, which consist largely of broken-off beginnings." In fact, as Hofmann recently added: "'Finished' seems to me, in the context of Kafka, a dubious or ironic condition, anyway. The more finished, the less finished. The less finished, the more finished. Gregor Samsa's sister Grete getting up to stretch in the streetcar. What kind of an ending is that?! There's perhaps some distinction to be made between 'finished' and 'ended.' Everything continues to vibrate or unsettle, anyway. Reiner Stach points out that none of the three novels were 'completed.' Some pieces break off, or are concluded, or stop—it doesn't matter!—after two hundred pages, some after two lines. The gusto, the friendliness, the wit with which Kafka launches himself into these things is astonishing."

## **Kafka on the Shore**

The Complete Stories brings together all of Kafka's stories, from the classic tales such as "The Metamorphosis," "In the Penal Colony," and "A Hunger Artist" to shorter pieces and fragments that Max Brod, Kafka's literary executor, released after Kafka's death. With the exception of his three novels, the whole of Kafka's narrative work is included in this volume.

## **The Sons**

Portrays a dreamlike world in which parables are even more obscure than the novels.

## **The Brothers Karamazov**

"I have only one request," Kafka wrote to his publisher Kurt Wolff in 1913. "'The Stoker,' 'The Metamorphosis,' and 'The Judgment' belong together, both inwardly and outwardly. There is an obvious connection among the three, and, even more important, a secret one, for which reason I would be reluctant to forego the chance of having them published together in a book, which might be called *The Sons*."

## Letters to Felice

The aphorism eludes definition: it can appear to be a random jotting or a more polished observation. Whether arbitrary fragment or crystalline shard, an aphorism captures the inception of a thought. Franz Kafka composed aphorisms during two periods in his life. A series of 109 was written between September 1917 and April 1918, in Zürau, West Bohemia, while Kafka was on a visit to his sister Ottla, hoping for a brief respite following the diagnosis of the tuberculosis virus that would eventually claim his life. They were originally published in 1931, seven years after his death by his friend and literary executor Max Brod, under the title *Betrachtungen über Sünde, Hoffnung, Leid, und den wahren Wag* (Reflections on Sin, Hope, Suffering, and the True Way). The second sequence of aphorisms, numbering 41, originally appeared as entries in Kafka's diary from January 6 to February 29, 1920. They, too, were published posthumously, under the title "Er": *Aufzeichnungen aus dem Jahr 1920* ("He": Reflections from the Year 1920). Kafka's aphorisms are fascinating glimpses into the lure and the enigma of the form itself. From the Hardcover edition.

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