

The Metamorphosis And Other Stories Oxford Worlds Classics

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Transforming Kafka Patrick O'Neill 2014-01-01 Patrick O'Neill approaches five of Kafka's novels and short stories by considering the many translations of each work as a single, multilingual "macrotext."

Metamorphosis Franz Kafka 2021-03-19 Franz Kafka, the author has very nicely narrated the story of Gregor Samsa who wakes up one day to discover that he has metamorphosed into a bug. The book concerns itself with the themes of alienation and existentialism. The author has written many important stories, including 'The Judgement', and much of his novels 'Amerika', 'The Castle', 'The Hunger Artist'. Many of his stories were published during his lifetime but many were not. Over the course of the 1920s and 30s Kafka's works were published and translated instantly becoming landmarks of twentieth-century literature. Ironically, the story ends on an optimistic note, as the family puts itself back together. The style of the book epitomizes Kafka's writing. Kafka very interestingly, used to present an impossible situation, such as a man's transformation into an insect, and develop the story from there with perfect realism and intense attention to detail. The Metamorphosis is an autobiographical piece of writing, and we find that parts of the story reflect Kafka's own life.

Kafkaesque: Fourteen Stories Franz Kafka 2018-09-18 Award-winning graphic novelist Peter Kuper presents a mesmerizing interpretation of fourteen iconic Kafka short stories. Long fascinated with the work of Franz Kafka, Peter Kuper began illustrating his stories in 1988. Initially drawn to the master's dark humor, Kuper adapted the stories over the years to plumb their deeper truths. Kuper's style deliberately evokes Lynd Ward and Frans Masereel, contemporaries of Kafka whose wordless novels captured much of the same claustrophobia and mania as Kafka's tales. Working from new translations of the classic texts, Kuper has reimagined these iconic stories for the twenty-first century, using setting and perspective to comment on contemporary issues like civil rights and homelessness. Longtime lovers of Kafka will appreciate Kuper's innovative interpretations, while Kafka novices will discover a haunting introduction to some of the great writer's most beguiling stories, including "A Hunger Artist," "In The Penal Colony," and "The Burrow." Kafkaesque stands somewhere between adaptation and wholly original creation, going beyond a simple illustration of Kafka's words to become a stunning work of art.

The Crystallization of the Arab State System, 1945-1954 Bruce Maddy-Weitzman 1993-06-01 This volume contains a comprehensive examination of the crucial first ten years of the Arab League and of the continuing dilemma it faces in juggling opposing local and regional interests.

The Trial ; America ; The Castle ; Metamorphosis ; In the Penal Settlement ; The Great Wall of China ;

Investigations of a Dog ; Letter to His Father ; The Diaries, 1910-23 Franz Kafka 1976 This volume contains the great works of fiction as well as the complete diaries and thus gives the reader considerable insight into the mind of this strange and powerful man.

The Metamorphosis: A New Translation by Susan Bernofsky Franz Kafka 2014-01-20 "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 Cambridge Companion to Thomas Mann Ritchie Robertson 2002 Specially-commissioned essays explore key dimensions of Thomas Mann's writing and life.

Fantastic Metamorphoses, Other Worlds Marina Warner 2004 Metamorphosis is a dynamic principle of creation,

vital to natural processes of generation and evolution, growth and decay, yet it also threatens personal identity if human beings are subject to a continual process of bodily transformation. Shape-shifting also belongs in the landscape of magic, witchcraft, and wonder, and enlivens classical mythology, early modern fairy tales and uncanny fictions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This collection of essays, given as the Clarendon Lectures in English 2001, takes four dominant processes of metamorphosis: Mutating, Hatching, Splitting, and Doubling, and explores their metaphorical power in the evocation of human personality. Marina Warner traces this story against a background of historical encounters with different cultures, especially with the Caribbean. Beginning with Ovid's great poem, *The Metamorphoses*, as the founding text of the metamorphic tradition, she takes us on a journey of exploration, into the fantastic art of Hieronymous Bosch, the legends of the Taino people, the life cycle of the butterfly, the myth of Leda and the Swan, the genealogy of the Zombie, the pantomime of Aladdin, the haunting of doppelgangers, the coming of photography, and the late fiction of Lewis Carroll.

The Decameron Giovanni Boccaccio 2002-02-01 *The Decameron* (c.1351) is an entertaining series of one hundred stories written in the wake of the Black Death. The stories are told in a country villa outside the city of Florence by ten young noble men and women who are seeking to escape the ravages of the plague. Boccaccio's skill as a dramatist is masterfully displayed in these vivid portraits of people from all stations in life, with plots that revel in a bewildering variety of human reactions.

The Sin of Abbé Mouret Émile Zola 2017 "The Sin of Abbé Mouret tells the compelling story of the young priest Serge Mouret. Striving after spiritual purity and sanctity, he lives a life of constant prayer, but his neglect of all physical needs leads to serious illness, followed by amnesia. No longer knowing he is a priest, he falls in love with his nurse Albine. Together, like a latter-day Adam and Eve, they roam through an Eden-like garden called the 'Paradou', seeking a forbidden tree in whose shade they will make love. Zola memorably shows their gradual awakening to sexuality, and his poetic descriptions of the luxuriant and beautiful Paradou create a lyrical celebration of Nature. When Serge regains his memory and recalls his priestly vows, anguish inevitably follows. The whole story, with its numerous biblical parallels, becomes a poetic reworking of the Fall of Man and a questioning of the very meaning of innocence and sin. Zola explores the conflict between Church and Nature, the sterility of the Church and the fertility of Nature. The edition includes a wide-ranging and helpful introduction and explanatory notes."--Page [4] of cover.

The Essential Kafka Franz Kafka 2014-09-07 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 Oxford Guide to Literature in English Translation Peter France 2001 Translation has been a crucial process in world culture over the past two millennia and more. In the English-speaking cultures many of the most important texts are translations, from Homer to Beckett, the Bible to Freud. Although recent years have seen a boom in translation studies, there has been no comprehensive yet convenient guide to this essential element of literature in English. Written by eminent scholars from many countries, the Oxford Guide to Literature in English Translation meets this need and will be essential reading for all students of English and comparative literature. It highlights the place of translation in our culture, encouraging awareness of the issues raised, making the translator more 'visible'. Concentrating on major writers and works, it covers translations out of many languages, from Greek to Korean, from Swahili to Russian. For some works (e.g. Virgil's *Aeneid*) which have been much translated, the discussion is historical and critical, showing how translation has evolved over the centuries and bringing out the differences between versions. Elsewhere, with less familiar literatures, the Guide examines the extent to which translation has done justice to the range of work available. The Guide is divided into two parts. Part I contains substantial essays on theoretical questions, a pioneering outline of the history of translation into English, and discussions of the problems raised by specific types of text (e.g. poetry, oral literature). The second, much longer, part consists of entries grouped by language of origin; some are devoted to individual texts (e.g. the *Thousand and One Nights*) or writers (e.g. Ibsen, Proust), but the majority offer a critical overview of a genre (e.g. Chinese poetry, Spanish Golden Age drama) or of a national literature (e.g. Hungarian, Scottish Gaelic). There is a selective bibliography for each entry and an index of authors and translators.

The Awakening & Other Short Stories Kate Chopin 2018-04-24 A green and yellow parrot, which hung in a cage outside the door, kept repeating over and over: "Allez vous-en! Allez vous-en! Sapristi! That's all right!" He could speak a little Spanish, and also a language which nobody understood, unless it was the mocking-bird that hung on the other side of the door, whistling his fluty notes out upon the breeze with maddening persistence. Mr. Pontellier, unable to read his newspaper with any degree of comfort, arose with an expression and an exclamation of disgust. He walked down the gallery and across the narrow "bridges" which connected the Lebrun cottages one with the other. He had been seated before the door of the main house. The parrot and the mockingbird were the property of Madame Lebrun, and they had the right to make all the noise they wished. Mr. Pontellier had the privilege of quitting their society when they ceased to be entertaining.

Joseph K Tom Basden 2010 A new play from Bafta nominee and award-winning British playwright and comedian

Tom Basden.

Candide and Other Stories Voltaire, 2008-04-17 "The story of Candide, a naive youth who is conscripted, shipwrecked, robbed, and tortured by the Inquisition without losing his will to live, is accompanied by four other stories"--NoveList.

The Daughter of the Commandant Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin 2009

The Man who Disappeared Franz Kafka 2012-04-12 "A new translation by Ritchie Robertson"--Cover.

Metamorphic Readings Alison Sharrock 2020-07-09 Ovid's remarkable and endlessly fascinating *Metamorphoses* is one of the best-known and most popular works of classical literature, exerting a pervasive influence on later European literature and culture. A vast repository of mythic material as well as a sophisticated manipulation of storytelling, the poem can be appreciated on many different levels and by audiences of very different backgrounds and educational experiences. As the poem's focus on transformation and transgression connects in many ways with contemporary culture and society, modern research perspectives have developed correspondingly. *Metamorphic Readings* presents the state of the art in research on this canonical Roman epic. Written in an accessible style, the essays included represent a variety of approaches, exploring the effects of transformation and the transgression of borders. The contributors investigate three main themes: transformations into the *Metamorphoses* (how the mythic narratives evolved), transformations in the *Metamorphoses* (what new understandings of the dynamics of metamorphosis might be achieved), and transformations of the *Metamorphoses* (how the *Metamorphoses* were later understood and came to acquire new meanings). The many forms of transformation exhibited by Ovid's masterpiece are explored--including the transformation of the genre of mythic narrative itself.

A Hunger Artist and Other Stories Franz Kafka 2012-04-12 Kafka published two collections of short stories in his lifetime, *A Country Doctor: Little Tales* (1919) and *A Hunger Artist: Four Stories* (1924). Both collections are included in their entirety in this edition, which also contains other uncollected stories and a selection of posthumously published works that have become part of the Kafka canon. Enigmatic, satirical, often bleakly humorous, these stories approach human experience at a tangent: a singing mouse, an ape, an inquisitive dog, and a paranoid burrowing creature are among the protagonists, as well as the professional hunger artist. The tales are among Kafka's best-known, haunting and compelling satires on the human condition, on art and artists, and on life itself, which complement his major fictions. Translated by the award-winning Joyce Crick, the book includes an invaluable introduction, notes, and other editorial material by renowned Kafka scholar Ritchie Robertson. There is also a Biographical Preface, an up-to-date bibliography, and a chronology of Kafka's life. This volume completes an Oxford World's Classics set of five Kafka works, in distinctive complementary cover designs. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

Candide & Zadig Voltaire 1968

A Hunger Artist and Other Stories Franz Kafka 2012-04-12 'In recent decades, interest in hunger artists has greatly diminished.' Kafka published two collections of short stories in his lifetime, *A Country Doctor: Little Tales* (1919) and *A Hunger Artist: Four Stories* (1924). Both collections are included in their entirety in this edition, which also contains other, uncollected stories and a selection of posthumously published works that have become part of the Kafka canon. Enigmatic, satirical, often bleakly humorous, these stories approach human experience at a tangent: a singing mouse, an ape, an inquisitive dog, and a paranoid burrowing creature are among the protagonists, as well as the professional starvation artist. A patient seems to be dying from a metaphysical wound; the war-horse of Alexander the Great steps aside from history and adopts a quiet profession as a lawyer. Fictional meditations on art and artists, and a series of aphorisms that come close to expressing Kafka's philosophy of life, further explore themes that recur in his major novels. Newly translated, and with an invaluable introduction and notes, Kafka's short stories are haunting and unforgettable. ABOUT THE SERIES: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

The Metamorphosis Franz Kafka 2015-11-26 Franz Kafka (3 July 1883 - 3 June 1924) was one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, but almost nobody was aware of his writing until after his death. Kafka did not intend for his unpublished work to come out after his death, but his wishes were ignored, to the world's benefit. Kafka's work is so profound and unique that the term "Kafkaesque" is now a part of the English language, a reference to surreal distortions and amazing complexities.

Collected Ghost Stories Montague Rhodes James 2007 Considered by many to be the most terrifying writer in English, M.R. James was an eminent scholar who spent his entire adult life in the academic surroundings of Eton and Cambridge. His classic supernatural tales draw on the terrors of the everyday, in which documents and objects unleash terrible forces, often in closed rooms and night-time settings where imagination runs riot. Lonely country houses, remote inns, ancient churches or the manuscript collections of great libraries provide settings for

unbearable menace, from creatures seeking retribution and harm. These stories have lost none of their power to unsettle and disturb. This edition presents all of James's published ghost stories, including the unforgettable 'Oh, Whistle and I'll Come to You, My Lad' and 'Casting the Runes', and an appendix of James's writings on the ghost story. Darryl Jones's introduction and notes provide a fascinating insight into James's background and his mastery of the genre he made his own. --! From publisher's description.

Wuthering Heights Emily Brontë 2009-10-08 "Wuthering Heights" is one of the most famous love stories in the English language. It is also one of the most potent revenge narratives. The passionate tale of Catherine and Heathcliff is presented here in a new edition that examines the qualities that make it such a compelling novel.

Kafka Translated Michelle Woods 2013-11-07 Kafka Translated is the first book to look at the issue of translation and Kafka's work. What effect do the translations have on how we read Kafka? Are our interpretations of Kafka influenced by the translators' interpretations? In what ways has Kafka been 'translated' into Anglo-American culture by popular culture and by academics? Michelle Woods investigates issues central to the burgeoning field of translation studies: the notion of cultural untranslatability; the centrality of female translators in literary history; and the under-representation of the influence of the translator as interpreter of literary texts. She specifically focuses on the role of two of Kafka's first translators, Milena Jesenská and Willa Muir, as well as two contemporary translators, Mark Harman and Michael Hofmann, and how their work might allow us to reassess reading Kafka. From here Woods opens up the whole process of translation and re-examines accepted and prevailing interpretations of Kafka's work.

The Latinist: A Novel Mark Prins 2022-01-04 One of The Millions' Most Anticipated Books of 2022 A CrimeReads Most Anticipated Crime Fiction of 2022 selection A contemporary reimagining of the Daphne and Apollo myth, *The Latinist* is a page-turning exploration of power, ambition, and the intertwining of love and obsession. Tessa Templeton has thrived at Oxford University under the tutelage and praise of esteemed classics professor Christopher Eccles. And now, his support is the one thing she can rely on: her job search has yielded nothing, and her devotion to her work has just cost her her boyfriend, Ben. Yet shortly before her thesis defense, Tessa learns that Chris has sabotaged her career—and realizes their relationship is not at all what she believed. Driven by what he mistakes as love for Tessa, Chris has ensured that no other institution will offer her a position, keeping her at Oxford with him. His tactics grow more invasive as he determines to prove he has her best interests at heart. Meanwhile, Tessa scrambles to undo the damage—and in the process makes a startling discovery about an obscure second-century Latin poet that could launch her into academic stardom, finally freeing her from Chris's influence. A contemporary reimagining of the Daphne and Apollo myth, *The Latinist* is a page-turning exploration of power, ambition, and the intertwining of love and obsession.

The Burrow Franz Kafka 2017-01-26 A superb new translation by Michael Hofmann of some of Kafka's most frightening, strange and visionary short fiction After Franz Kafka's death, in perhaps the most important of all acts of literary disobedience, his executor refused to agree to Kafka's wish that his great mass of unpublished fiction be destroyed. This fiction included not only *The Castle* and *The Trial* but also the amazingly varied, chilling and ingenious short works collected in *The Burrow and Other Stories*. These tales, some little more than a page, others much more substantial, are among the greatest works of Central European literature. They vary from the tiny and horrifying 'Little Fable' to the elaborate waking nightmares of 'Building the Great Wall of China' and the title story 'The Burrow', where an unidentified creature describes its creation of an endlessly elaborate burrow to protect itself from unidentified enemies, but with every trap or tunnel only creating further terrors and uncertainty.

The Metamorphosis and Other Stories Franz Kafka 2009-07-09 For the 125th anniversary of Kafka's birth comes an astonishing new translation of his best-known stories, in a spectacular graphic package.

Ovid: a Very Short Introduction Llewelyn Morgan 2020-09-24 Ovid, wittiest of ancient poets, has been an influential model for writers and artists throughout the ages. Llewelyn Morgan introduces the poet and his works, describing each of his poems in turn, setting them in their social and literary context, and considering the twist of events that led to the exile of Rome's most celebrated artist.

The Complete Stories Flannery O'Connor 2019-05-07 Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction, these thirty-one powerful and disturbing stories cement Flannery O'Connor as one of the preeminent fiction writers of the twentieth century. This collection includes twelve stories that did not appear in the two story collections O'Connor put together in her lifetime. This collection includes the following short stories: "The Geranium" "The Barber" "Wildcat" "The Crop" "The Turkey" "The Train" "The Peeler" "The Heart of the Park" "A Stroke of Good Fortune" "Enoch and the Gorilla" "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" "A Late Encounter with the Enemy" "The Life You Save May Be Your Own" "The River" "A Circle in the Fire" "The Displaced Person" "A Temple of the Holy Ghost" "The Artificial Nigger" "Good Country People" "You Can't Be Any Poorer Than Dead" "Greeleaf" "A View of the Woods" "The Enduring Chill" "The Comforts of Home" "Everything That Rises Must Converge" "The Partridge Festival" "The Lame Shall Enter First" "Why Do the Heathen Rage" "Revelation" "Parker's Back" "Judgement Day" Penguin Random House Canada is proud to bring you classic works of literature in e-book form, with the highest quality production values. Find more today and rediscover books you never knew you loved.

Zuleika Dobson Max Beerbohm 2010-06-01 Zuleika Dobson is a conjurer by trade and a femme fatale by nature. She visits her uncle at Oxford University and all the young men studying there fall in love with her. She is unable to

love any man who is not impervious to her charm, and her frustrated suitors are driven to suicide. The novel is a wicked, funny look inside Edwardian Oxford.

The Metamorphosis and Other Stories Franz Kafka 2009-07-09 'When Gregor Samsa woke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed into some kind of monstrous vermin.' With a bewildering blend of the everyday and the fantastical, Kafka thus begins his most famous short story, *The Metamorphosis*. A commercial traveller is unexpectedly freed from his dreary job by his inexplicable transformation into an insect, which drastically alters his relationship with his family. Kafka considered publishing it with two of the stories included here in a volume to be called *Punishments*. *The Judgement* also concerns family tensions, when a power struggle between father and son ends with the father passing an enigmatic judgement on the helpless son. The third story, *In the Penal Colony*, explores questions of power, justice, punishment, and the meaning of pain in a colonial setting. These three stories are flanked by two very different works. *Meditation*, the first book Kafka published, consists of light, whimsical, often poignant mood-pictures, while in the autobiographical *Letter to his Father*, Kafka analyses his difficult relationship in forensic and devastating detail. ABOUT THE SERIES: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

Metamorphoses Ovid 1960 Ovid's magnificent panorama of the Greek and Roman myths-presented by a noted poet, scholar, and critic. Prized through the ages for its splendor and its savage, sophisticated wit, *The Metamorphoses* is a masterpiece of Western culture-the first attempt to link all the Greek myths, before and after Homer, in a cohesive whole, to the Roman myths of Ovid's day. Horace Gregory, in this modern translation, turns his own poetic gifts toward a deft reconstruction of Ovid's ancient themes, using contemporary idiom to bring to today's reader all the ageless drama and psychological truths vividly intact.

Ovid's Changing Worlds Raphael Lyne 2001 Ovid's *Changing Worlds* looks at the four most important English imitations of the *Metamorphoses* in the English Renaissance: the translations of Arthur Golding and George Sandys, Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, and Michael Drayton's *Poly-Olbion*. It sheds new light on dealings with the classics in the period and shows that the emergence of English literature was a complex and fascinating process.

Kafka: A Very Short Introduction Ritchie Robertson 2004-10-28 Franz Kafka is one of the most intriguing writers of the 20th century. In this text the author provides an up-to-date introduction to Kafka, beginning with an examination of his life and then discussing some of the major themes that emerge in Kafka's work.

A Case of Hysteria Sigmund Freud 2013-04-11 'I very soon had an opportunity to interpret Dora's nervous coughing as the outcome of a fantasized sexual situation.' *A Case of Hysteria*, popularly known as the Dora Case, affords a rare insight into how Freud dealt with patients and interpreted what they told him. The 18-year-old 'Dora' was sent for psychoanalysis by her father after threatening suicide; as Freud's enquiries deepened, he uncovered a remarkably unhappy and conflict-ridden family, with several competing versions of their story. The narrative became a crucial text in the evolution of his theories, combining his studies on hysteria and his new theory of dream-interpretation with early insights into the development of sexuality. The unwitting preconceptions and prejudices with which Freud approached his patient reveal his blindness and the broader attitudes of turn-of-the-century Viennese society, while his account of 'Dora's' emotional travails is as gripping as a modern novel. This new translation is accompanied by a substantial introduction which sets the work in its biographical, historical, and intellectual context, and offers a close and critical analysis of the text itself. ABOUT THE SERIES: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

Human Rights in Children's Literature Jonathan Todres 2016 How can children grow to realize their inherent human rights and respect the rights of others? This book explores this question through children's literature from 'Peter Rabbit' to 'Horton Hears a Who!' to Harry Potter. The authors investigate children's rights under international law - identity and family rights, the right to be heard, the right to be free from discrimination, and other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights - and consider the way in which those rights are embedded in children's literature.

The Trial Franz Kafka 2012-03-05 From its gripping first sentence onward, this novel exemplifies the term "Kafkaesque." Its darkly humorous narrative recounts a bank clerk's entrapment in a bureaucratic maze, based on an undisclosed charge.

Gestural Imaginaries Lucia Ruprecht 2019 A new interpretation of European modernist dance addressing it as guiding medium in a vibrant field of gestural culture that ranged across art and philosophy

Kafka in 60 Minutes Walther Ziegler 2022-08-31 Kafka is surely the most widely read, worldwide, of all German-language authors. We owe to him not just a compelling part of the global literary heritage but also a profound philosophical discovery. He has succeeded in grasping like no other writer the radical dependency, for his very being, of Man upon Man: "(We) are tied together by ropes," writes Kafka, "and it's bad enough when the ropes

around an individual loosen and he drops somewhat lower than the others into empty space; ghastly when the ropes break and he falls." His stories allow us profound insight into the abysmal depths of interpersonal relations and into their fundamental structure: an insight from which no one can turn away. Even if in our actual lives we do not find ourselves turned into a giant beetle or suddenly condemned to drowning by our own father, we somehow feel, as readers, the force of these excommunications. Kafka was fully aware of the cathartic effect of his books: "A book must be the axe for the frozen sea inside us". Here, Kafka's philosophical truth is revealed using five selected short stories, novellas and novels from his body of work. What does his protagonists' fate consist in? On what do they always founder and fail? Is there some recurrent or constant reason for this failure? How is it that we seem to recognize all this so well from our dreams or even our real experiences? Could it be that Kafka provides us, in the end, with a key to the understanding of the basic structure of interpersonal relations? The book contains over a hundred quotations from Kafka's best-known works. It appears as part of the popular series "Great Thinkers in 60 Minutes".