

Franz Kafka

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Franz Kafka




Photograph of Franz Kafka taken in 1906

Born: July 3, 1883



Prague, Austria-Hungary (today
in the Czech Republic)

Died: June 3, 1924 (aged 40)

 Kierling near Vienna, Austria

Occupation: insurance officer, factory manager,
novelist, short story writer

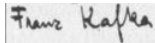
Nationality: Ashkenazi Jewish-Bohemian (Austria
Hungary)

Genres: novel, short story

Literary movement: modernism, existentialism, Surrealism
precursor to magical realism

Influences: Søren Kierkegaard, Fyodor
Dostoevsky, Charles Dickens,
Friedrich Nietzsche

Influenced: Albert Camus, Federico Fellini, Isaac
Bashevis Singer, Jorge Luis Borges,
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Carlos
Fuentes, Salman Rushdie, Haruki
Murakami

Signature: 

Franz Kafka (IPA: [ˈfrants ˈkafka]) (July 3, 1883 – June 3, 1924) was one of the major German-language fiction writers of the 20th century. A middle-class Jew based in Prague, his unique body of writing — many incomplete and most published posthumously — has become amongst the most influential in Western literature.^[1]

Kafka's works – including the stories *Das Urteil* (1913, "*The Judgement*"), *In der Strafkolonie* (1920, "*In the Penal Colony*"); the novella *Die Verwandlung* ("*The Metamorphosis*"); and unfinished novels *Der Prozess* ("*The Trial*") and *Das Schloß* ("*The Castle*") – have come to embody the blend of absurd, surreal and mundane which gave rise to the adjective "kafkaesque".

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Life

Family

Kafka was born into a middle-class, German-speaking Jewish family in Prague, the capital of Bohemia. His father, Hermann Kafka (1852–1931), was described as a "huge, selfish, overbearing businessman" (Corngold 1972) and by Kafka himself as "a true Kafka in strength, health, appetite, loudness of voice, eloquence, self-

satisfaction, worldly dominance, endurance, presence of mind, [and] knowledge of human nature ..."[2]. Kafka struggled to come to terms with his domineering father. Hermann was the fourth child of Jacob Kafka, a butcher, and came to Prague from Osek, a Czech-speaking Jewish village near Písek in southern Bohemia. After working as a traveling sales representative, he established himself as an independent retailer of men's and women's fancy goods and accessories, employing up to 15 people and using a jackdaw (*kavka* in Czech) as his business logo. Kafka's mother, Julie (1856—1934), was the daughter of Jakob Löwy, a prosperous brewer in Poděbrady, and was better educated than her husband.[3]

Kafka was the eldest of six children.[4] He had two younger brothers, Georg and Heinrich, who died at the ages of fifteen months and six months, respectively, before Kafka was six, and three younger sisters, Gabriele ("Elli") (1889–1941), Valerie ("Valli") (1890–1942), and Otilie ("Ottla") (1892–1943). On business days, both parents were absent from the home. His mother helped to manage her husband's business and worked in it as much as 12 hours a day. The children were largely reared by a series of governesses and servants.

Kafka's sisters were sent with their families to the Łódź ghetto and died there or in concentration camps. Ottla was sent to the concentration camp at Theresienstadt and then on October 7, 1943 to the death camp at Auschwitz, where 1260 children and 53 guardians, including Ottla, were gassed to death at their arrival. [5]

Education

Kafka learned German as his first language, but he was also fluent in Czech. Later, Kafka also acquired some knowledge of French language and culture; one of his favorite authors was Flaubert. From 1889 to 1893, he attended the *Deutsche Knabenschule*, the boys' elementary school at the *Fleischmarkt* (meat market), the street now known as Masná Street in Prague. His Jewish education was limited to his *Bar Mitzvah* celebration at 13 and going to the synagogue four times a year with his father. [6] After elementary school, he was admitted to the rigorous classics-oriented state *gymnasium*, *Altstädter Deutsches Gymnasium*, an academic secondary school with eight grade levels, where German was also the language of instruction, at Staroměstské náměstí, within the

Kinsky Palace in the Old Town. He completed his Matura exams in 1901.

Admitted to the German Charles-Ferdinand University of Prague, Kafka first studied chemistry, but switched after two weeks to law. This offered a range of career possibilities, which pleased his father, and required a longer course of study that gave Kafka time to take classes in German studies and art history. At the university, he joined a student club, named *Lese- und Redehalle der Deutschen Studenten*, which organized literary events, readings and other activities. In the end of his first year of studies, he met Max Brod, who would become a close friend of his throughout his life, together with the journalist Felix Weltsch, who also studied law. Kafka obtained the degree of Doctor of Law on June 18, 1906 and performed an obligatory year of unpaid service as law clerk for the civil and criminal courts.^[1]

Work

On November 1, 1907, he was hired at the Assicurazioni Generali, a huge Italian insurance company, where he worked for nearly a year. His

correspondence, during that period, witnesses that he was unhappy with his working time schedule - from 8 p.m (20:00) until 6 a.m (06:00) - as it made it extremely difficult for him to concentrate on his writing. On July 15, 1908, he resigned, and two weeks later found more congenial employment with the Worker's Accident Insurance Institute for the Kingdom of Bohemia. He often referred to his job as insurance officer as a "Brotberuf", literally "bread job", a job done only to pay the bills. However, he did not show any signs of indifference towards his job, as the several promotions that he received during his career prove that he was a hardworking employee. A little-known fact about this period, reported by Peter Drucker in *Managing in the Next Society*, is that Kafka invented the safety helmet. He received a medal for this invention in 1912 because it reduced Bohemian steel mill deaths to fewer than 25 per thousand employees. He was also given the task of compiling and composing the annual report and was reportedly quite proud of the results, sending copies to friends and family. In parallel, Kafka was also committed to his literary work. Together with his close friends Max Brod and Felix Weltsch these three were called "Der enge Prager Kreis", the close Prague circle.

In 1911, Karl Hermann, spouse of his sister Elli, proposed Kafka collaborate in the operation of an asbestos factory known as Prager Asbestwerke Hermann and Co. Kafka showed a positive attitude at first, dedicating much of his free time to the business. During that period, he also found interest and entertainment in the performances of Yiddish theatre, despite the misgivings of even close friends such as Max Brod, who usually supported him in everything else. Those performances also served as a starting point for his growing relationship with Judaism.

Later years

In 1912, at the home of his lifelong friend Max Brod, Kafka met Felice Bauer, who lived in Berlin and worked as a representative for a dictaphone company. Over the next five years they corresponded a great deal, met occasionally, and twice were engaged to be married. Their relationship finally ended in 1917.

In 1917, Kafka began to suffer from tuberculosis, which would require frequent convalescence during which he was supported by his family, most notably his sister Ottla. Despite his fear of being

perceived as both physically and mentally repulsive, he impressed others with his boyish, neat, and austere good looks, a quiet and cool demeanor, obvious intelligence and dry sense of humor.^[7]

In the early 1920s he developed an intense relationship with Czech journalist and writer Milena Jesenská. In 1923, he briefly moved to Berlin in the hope of distancing himself from his family's influence to concentrate on his writing. In Berlin, he lived with Dora Diamant, a 25-year-old kindergarten teacher from an orthodox Jewish family, who was independent enough to have escaped her past in the ghetto. Dora became his lover, and influenced Kafka's interest in the Talmud.^[8]

It is generally agreed that Kafka suffered from clinical depression and social anxiety throughout his entire life. He also suffered from migraines, insomnia, constipation, boils, and other ailments, all usually brought on by excessive stresses and strains. He attempted to counteract all of this by a regimen of naturopathic treatments, such as a vegetarian diet and the consumption of large quantities of unpasteurized milk. However, Kafka's tuberculosis worsened; he returned to Prague, then

went to Dr. Hoffmann sanatorium in Kierling near Vienna for treatment, where he died on June 3, 1924, apparently from starvation. The condition of Kafka's throat made it too painful to eat, and since intravenous therapy had not been developed, there was no way to feed him (a fate resembling that of Gregor in the *Metamorphosis* and the main character of *A Hunger Artist*). His body was ultimately brought back to Prague where he was interred on June 11, 1924, in the New Jewish Cemetery (sector 21, row 14, plot 33) in Prague-Žižkov.

Personal views

Kafka maintained his indifference to formal religion throughout most of his life. Yet, while never depicting the characters in his stories as Jewish, he never tried to obfuscate his Jewish roots. Intellectually, Hasidism held a strong appeal for him, especially because of the value it places in transcendent, mystical experience. During the last ten years of his life, Kafka even professed an interest in moving to Palestine. The ethical and procedural dilemmas presented in "The Judgment," "The Stoker," "A Hunger Artist," and "A Country Doctor" all bear distinct traces of Kafka's interest

in rabbinical teachings as they pertain to law and justice. In addition, many of Kafka's short stories bear striking similarities to Jewish folk tales and parables (Before the Law, for example) The humorously meticulous style of the argumentative narrator in "Josephine the Singer," on the other hand, shadows the rhetorical conventions of rabbinical discourse.^[9]

Literary work

Kafka published only a few short stories during his lifetime, a small part of his work, and never finished any of his novels (with the possible exception of *The Metamorphosis*, which some consider to be a short novel). His writing attracted little attention until after his death. Prior to his death, he instructed his friend and literary executor Max Brod to destroy all of his manuscripts. His lover, Dora Diamant, partially executed his wishes, secretly keeping up to 20 notebooks and 35 letters until they were confiscated by the Gestapo in 1933. An ongoing international search is being conducted for these missing Kafka papers. Brod overrode Kafka's instructions and instead oversaw the



Franz Kafka's grave in Prague-Žižkov

publication of most of his work in his possession, which soon began to attract attention and high critical regard.

All of Kafka's published works, except several letters he wrote in Czech to Milena Jesenská, were

written in German.

Style of writing

Kafka often made extensive use of a trait special to the German language allowing for long sentences that sometimes can span an entire page. Kafka's sentences then deliver an unexpected impact just before the period—that being the finalizing meaning and focus. This is achieved due to the construction of certain sentences in German which require that the verb be positioned at the end of the sentence.^[10] Such constructions are not duplicable in English, so it is up to the translator to provide the reader with the same effect found in the original text.^[11] One such instance of a Kafka translator's quandary is demonstrated in the first sentence of *The Metamorphosis*.

Another virtually insurmountable problem facing the translator is how to deal with the author's intentional use of ambiguous terms or of words that have several meanings. An example is the Kafka's use of the German noun *Verkehr* in the final sentence of *The Judgment*. The sentence can be translated as: "*At that moment an unending stream of traffic crossed over the bridge.*"^[12] What

gives added weight to the obvious double meaning of *Verkehr* is Kafka's confession to his friend and biographer Max Brod that when he wrote that final line, he was thinking of "a violent ejaculation." In the English translation, of course, what can *Verkehr* be but "traffic"?^[13]

Critical interpretation

Many

critics have tried to make sense of Kafka's works by interpreting them through certain schools of literary criticism such as modernism, magical realism, and so on.^[14] The apparent hopelessness and the absurdity that seem to permeate his works are considered emblematic of existentialism. Others have tried to locate a Marxist influence in his satirization of bureaucracy in pieces such as *In the Penal Colony*, *The Trial*, and *The Castle*,^[14] whereas others point to anarchism as an inspiration for Kafka's anti-bureaucratic viewpoint. Still others have interpreted his works through the lens of Judaism (Borges made a few perceptive remarks in this regard), through Freudianism^[14] (because of his familial struggles), or as allegories of a metaphysical quest for God (Thomas Mann was a



Bronze statue of Franz Kafka in Prague

proponent of this theory).

Themes of alienation and persecution are repeatedly emphasized, and the emphasis on this quality, notably in the work of Marthe Robert, partly inspired the counter-criticism of Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, who argued that there was much more to Kafka than the stereotype of a lonely figure writing out of anguish, and that his work was more deliberate, subversive, and more "joyful" than it appears to be.

Furthermore, an isolated reading of Kafka's work — focusing on the futility of his characters' struggling without the influence of any studies on Kafka's life was worthless — reveals the humor of Kafka. Kafka's work, in this sense, is not a written reflection of any of his own struggles, but a reflection of how people invent struggles.

Biographers have said that it was common for Kafka to read chapters of the books he was working on to his closest friends, and that those readings usually concentrated on the humorous side of his prose. Milan Kundera refers to the essentially surrealist humour of Kafka as a main predecessor of later artists such as Federico Fellini, Gabriel García Márquez, Carlos Fuentes and Salman Rushdie. For Márquez it was as he said the

reading of Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* that showed him "that it was possible to write in a different way".

Publications and dates

Readers of Kafka should pay particular attention to the dates of the publications (whether German or translated) of his writing when choosing an edition to read.

Kafka died before preparing (in some cases even finishing) some of his writings for publication. Therefore, the novels *The Castle* (which stopped mid-sentence and had ambiguity on content), *The Trial* (chapters were unnumbered and some were incomplete) and *Amerika* (Kafka's original title was *The Man who Disappeared*) were all prepared for publishing by Max Brod. It appears Brod took a few liberties with the manuscript (moving chapters, changing the German and cleaning up the punctuation) and hence the original German text, that was not published, was altered. The editions by Brod are generally referred to as the Definitive Editions.

According to the publisher's note^[15] for *The Castle* (Schocken Books, 1998), Malcolm Pasley was able

to get most of the Kafka's original handwritten work into the Oxford Bodleian Library in 1961. The text for *The Trial* was later acquired through auction and is stored at the German literary archives^[16] at Marbach, Germany (publisher's note, *The Trial*, Schocken Books, 1998).

Subsequently, Pasley headed a team (including Gerhard Neumann, Jost Schillemeit, and Jürgen Born) in reconstructing the German novels and S. Fischer Verlag republished them.^[17] Pasley was the editor for *Das Schloß (The Castle)*, published in 1982, and *Der Proceß (The Trial)*, published in 1990. Jost Schillemeit was the editor of *Der Verschollene (Amerika)* published in 1983. These are all called the 'Critical Editions' or the 'Fischer Editions'. The German critical text of these, and Kafka's other works, may be found online at *The Kafka Project*.^[18]

There is another Kafka Project based at San Diego State University, which began in 1998 as the official international search for Kafka's last writings. Consisting of 20 notebooks and 35 letters to Kafka's last companion, Dora Diamant (later, Dymant-Lask), this missing literary treasure was confiscated from her by the Gestapo in Berlin 1933. The Kafka Project's four-month search of

government archives in Berlin in 1998 uncovered the confiscation order and other significant documents. In 2003, the Kafka Project discovered three original Kafka letters, written in 1923. Building on the search conducted by Max Brod and Klaus Wagenbach in the mid-1950s, the Kafka Project at SDSU has an advisory committee of international scholars and researchers, and is calling for volunteers who want to help solve a literary mystery. More information is available at <http://www.kafkaproject.com>. Sources: Kafka, by Nicolas Murray, pages 367, 374; Kafka's Last Love, by Kathi Diamant; "Summary of the Results of the Kafka Project Berlin Research June 1-September 1998" published in December 1998 Kafka Katern, quarterly of the Kafka Circle of the Netherlands.

Translations

There are two primary sources for the translations based on the two German editions. The earliest English translations were by Edwin and Willa Muir and published by Alfred A. Knopf. These editions were widely published and spurred the late-1940's surge in Kafka's popularity in the United States. Later editions (notably the 1954

editions) had the addition of the deleted text translated by Eithne Wilkins and Ernst Kaiser. These are known 'Definitive Editions'. They translated both *The Trial, Definitive* and *The Castle, Definitive* among other writings. Definitive Editions are generally accepted to have a number of biases and to be dated in interpretation.

After Pasley and Schillemeit completed their recompilation of the German text, the new translations were completed and published -- *The Castle, Critical* by Mark Harman (Schocken Books, 1998), *The Trial, Critical* by Breon Mitchell (Schocken Books, 1998) and *Amerika: The Man Who Disappeared* by Michael Hoffman (New Directions Publishing, 2004). These editions are often noted as being based on the restored text.

Legacy

- Franz Kafka has a museum dedicated to his work in Prague, Czech Republic.
- The term "Kafkaesque" is widely used and misused to describe concepts, situations, and

ideas which are reminiscent of Kafka's works, particularly *The Trial* and "The



The entrance to the Franz Kafka museum in Prague

Metamorphosis".

- In Mexico, the phrase "Si Franz Kafka fuera mexicano, sería costumbrista" (If Franz Kafka were Mexican, he would be a Costumbrista writer) is commonly used in newspapers, blogs, and online forums to tell how hopeless and absurd the situation in the country is.^[19]

Kafka in Literature

- Nobel Prize winner Isaac Bashevis Singer wrote a short story called "A Friend of Kafka," which was about a Yiddish actor called Jacques Kohn who said he knew Franz Kafka. In this story, according to Jacques Kohn, Kafka believed in the Golem,

a legendary creature from Jewish folklore.
[20]

- *Kafka Americana* by Jonathan Lethem and Carter Scholz is a collection of stories based on Kafka's life and works.

Graphic Novels

- *Give It Up! And Other Short Stories by Franz Kafka* - A selection of nine short stories by Kafka illustrated by Peter Kuper. ComicsLit, 2005 ISBN 1-5616-3449-2
- *The Metamorphosis* - Also illustrated by Peter Kuper. Three Rivers Press, 2004. ISBN 1-4000-5299-8
- *Introducing Kafka* - Written by David Zane Mairowitz and illustrated by Robert Crumb. An illustrated biography which includes comic adaptations of some of Kafka's most famous works including *The Metamorphosis*, *A Hunger Artist*, *In The Penal Colony*, *The Judgment* and brief sketches of the three novels. New York: Totem Books, 1993. (Part of the "Introducing ..." series by Totem Books.) ISBN 1-8404-6122-5 Republished as *R. Crumb's Kafka* by ibooks graphic novels, 2005. ISBN 1-5968-7812-6

- *Il Processo di Franz Kafka* an Italian adaptation of *The Trial* made by Guido Crepax for Edizioni Piemme.

Kafka in Film

*For a
full list
of films
The
IMDb*



The fat man on a litter, as depicted in a short film adaptation of *Description of a Struggle*

filmography

Kafka's Life

- *Kafka* (1991) Jeremy Irons stars as the eponymous author. Directed by Steven

Soderbergh, the movie mixes his life and fiction providing a semi-biographical presentation of Kafka's life and works. The story concerns Kafka investigating the disappearance of one of his work colleagues. The plot takes Kafka through many of the writer's own works, most notably *The Castle* and *The Trial*.

- *Franz Kafka* (1992) at the Internet Movie Database : an animated film by Piotr Dumala

Novels

- *The Trial* (1962) Orson Welles, wrote and directed this adaptation of the novel starring Anthony Perkins. In a 1962 BBC Interview with Huw Wheldon, Orson Welles noted, "Say what you like, but *The Trial* is the best film I have ever made".
- *Klassenverhältnisse Class Relations* (1984) Directed by the experimental filmmaking duo of Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet based on Kafka's novel *Amerika*
- *The Trial* (1993) Starring Kyle MacLachlan as Joseph K. with Anthony Hopkins in a cameo role as the priest as a strictly faithful adaptation with a screenplay by playwright Harold Pinter.
- *Das Schloß* (1997) at the Internet Movie

Database by Michael Haneke

Metamorphosis

- *Die Verwandlung* (1975) at the Internet Movie Database
- *Förvandlingen* (1976/I) at the Internet Movie Database
- *The Metamorphosis of Mr. Samsa* (1977) at the Internet Movie Database : an animated short by Caroline Leaf
- *Metamorphosis* (1987) at the Internet Movie Database
- *Franz Kafka's 'It's a Wonderful Life'* (1993) is a short Oscar winning film written and directed by Peter Capaldi and starring Richard E. Grant as Kafka. The film blends "Metamorphosis" with Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*.
- *The Metamorphosis of Franz Kafka* (1993) by Carlos Atanes, at YouTube.
- *Prevrashcheniye* (2002) at the Internet Movie Database

Short Stories

- *Zoetrope* : an experimental avant-garde short film by Charlie Deaux, *Zoetrope* (1999) at the Internet Movie Database

- *The Hunger Artist (2002)* at the Internet Movie Database : an animated feature by Tom Gibbons
- *Menschenkörper (2004)* at the Internet Movie Database^[21] Adaptation of *A Country Doctor*

Bibliography

for a full list see Bibliography of Franz Kafka

Short stories

- *Description of a Struggle (Beschreibung eines Kampfes, 1904-1905)*
- *Wedding Preparations in the Country (Hochzeitsvorbereitungen auf dem Lande, 1907-1908)*
- *Contemplation (Betrachtung, 1904-1912)*
- *The Judgment (Das Urteil - September 22-23, 1912)*
- *The Stoker*
- *In the Penal Colony (In der Strafkolonie, October 1914)*
- *The Village Schoolmaster (The Giant Mole) (Der Dorfschullehrer or Der Riesenmaulwurf, 1914-1915)*
- *Blumfeld, an Elderly Bachelor (Blumfeld,*

ein älterer Junggeselle, 1915)

- *The Warden of the Tomb* (*Der Gruftwächter*, 1916-1917), the only play Kafka wrote
- *The Hunter Gracchus* (*Der Jäger Gracchus*, 1917)
- *The Great Wall of China* (*Beim Bau der Chinesischen Mauer*, 1917)
- *A Report to an Academy* (*Ein Bericht für eine Akademie*, 1917)
- *A Country Doctor* (*Ein Landarzt*, 1919)
- *A Message from the Emperor* (*Eine kaiserliche Botschaft*, 1919)
- *An Old Leaf* (*Ein altes Blatt*, 1919)
- *The Refusal* (*Die Abweisung*, 1920)
- *A Hunger Artist* (*Ein Hungerkünstler*, 1924)
- *Investigations of a Dog* (*Forschungen eines Hundes*, 1922)
- *A Little Woman* (*Eine kleine Frau*, 1923)
- *The Burrow* (*Der Bau*, 1923-1924)
- *Josephine the Singer, or The Mouse Folk* (*Josephine, die Sängerin, oder Das Volk der Mäuse*, 1924)

Many collections of the stories have been published, and they include:

- *The Penal Colony: Stories and Short Pieces*. New York: Schocken Books, 1948.
- *The Complete Stories*, (ed. Nahum N.

- Glatzer). New York: Schocken Books, 1971.
- *The Basic Kafka*. New York: Pocket Books, 1979.
- *The Sons*. New York: Schocken Books, 1989.
- *The Metamorphosis, In the Penal Colony, and Other Stories*. New York: Schocken Books, 1995.
- *Contemplation*. Twisted Spoon Press, 1998.
- *Metamorphosis and Other Stories*. Penguin Classics, 2007

Novellas

- *The Metamorphosis (Die Verwandlung* - November-December 1915)

Novels

- *The Trial (Der Prozeß* - 1925) (includes short story Before the Law)
- *The Castle (Das Schloß* - 1926)
- *Amerika (Amerika or Der Verschollene* - 1927)

Diaries and notebooks

- *Diaries 1910-1923* [1]
- *The Blue Octavo Notebooks*

Letters

- *Letter to His Father*
 - *Letters to Felice*
 - *Letters to Ottla*
 - *Letters to Milena*
 - *Letters to Family, Friends, and Editors*
-

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References in popular culture

- In the television show Home Movies the character Dwayne wants to do a rock opera about Franz Kafka.
- In the short lived television show Mission Hill The main character draws a single panel comic of a woman holding a piece of meat at a butcher's shop with he caption reading "This is soo Kafkaesque" as a satire to people who use the word Kafkaesque

incorrectly.

- Kafka's "Metamorphosis" is referenced in the Mel Brooks movie Spaceballs. When the spaceship is about to transform into a robot the character Dark Helmet declares: "Prepare for Metamorphosis, are you ready Kafka?"
- The Scottish post-punk group Josef K was named after the protagonist in Kafka's novel *The Trial*, as band leader Paul Haig was a Kafka fan who considered himself an existentialist.^[22]
- A Picture of Kafka can be seen in the cult MTV series Daria on her bedroom wall, Season 3 Episode 03, named Depth Takes a Holiday. This could hint at a possible connection felt between Daria and the writer.
- The rock band Kilgore Smudge wrote a song called "Trial" on their 'Blue Collar Solitude' album which compares the singer's life to that of Josef K.
- In Northern Exposure, Season 3, Episode 23 "Cicely" Kafka visits Cicely, Alaska in 1909 to spend time with Roslyn, whom he met in Prague. He is suffering writer's block while working on Metamorphosis. Kafka is played by Rob Morrow, who also plays Dr Joel Fleischman. After Cicely is killed, he returns to Europe with "Mary", a missionary, played by Janine Turner (Maggie O'Connell).

- Kafka is mentioned in the song "Doomsday Clock" by The Smashing Pumpkins, which can be found on their album *Zeitgeist*.
- The song "At Night" by The Cure on the album *Seventeen Seconds* is based on the Kafka story of the same title.
- Kafka is also mentioned in the Cain Saga by Kaori Yuki
- Kafka is mentioned throughout *The Squid and the Whale*, a movie directed by Noah Baumbach, as being a "racy" writer by Frank. Since Walt looks up to his dad, he refers to Kafka in a conversation with a girl who turns out to later have read the book.

Trivia

- In a letter to his friend and publisher Kurt Wolff, Kafka wrote that he wished to include "The Judgment," "The Stoker", and "The Metamorphosis" in one volume under the title *The Sons*. This letter is dated April 4, 1913—well before he had written either "The Stoker" or "The Metamorphosis."^[23]
- Kafka played an important role in the development of the civilian hard hat or safety helmet, as a young bureaucrat and

insurer.

- David Lynch has cited Kafka as an influence upon his work.

See also

- Asteroid 3412 Kafka, named after the author.
- Max Brod
- Felix Weltsch
- List of famous Austrians
- List of Austrian writers
- *Kafka on the Shore*
- Franz Kafka Prize

Notes

1. ^ *a b* (Spanish)Contijoch, Francesc Miralles (2000) "Franz Kafka". *Oceano Grupo Editorial, S.A. Barcelona*. ISBN 84-494-1811-9.
2. ^ Franz Kafka's Letter to his father www.kafka-franz.com
3. ^ Gilman, Sander L. (2005) "Franz Kafka". *Reaktion Books Ltd. London, UK*. p.20-21. ISBN 1-86189-254-3.
4. ^ Hamalian ([1974], 3).
5. ^ Danuta Czech: Kalendarz wydarzeń w KL Auschwitz, Oświęcim 1992, p. 534. In the

archives of the camp a list with the names of the guardians was preserved.

6. ^ Franz Kafka Biography www.kafka-franz.com
7. ^ Ryan McKittrick speaks with director Dominique Serrand and Gideon Lester about Amerika www.amrep.org
8. ^ Lothar Hempel www.atlegerhardsen.com
9. ^ Kafka (1996, xiv–xv).
10. ^ The Awful German Language. An Essay by Mark Twain. Accessed Feb-21-2007. Mark Twain demonstrates how the verb in German can be transposed to the end of a sentence, leaving the reader unaware of what activity is actually going on until the final word, through his translation of the German sentence "Wenn er aber auf der Strasse der in Sammt und Seide gehüllten jetzt sehr ungenirt nach der neusten Mode gekleideten Regierungsräthin **begegnet**" into "But when he, upon the street, the (in-satin-and-silk-covered-now-very-unconstrained-after-the-newest-fashioned-dressed) government counselor's wife **met**."
11. ^ Kafka (1996, xi).
12. ^ Kafka (1996, 75).
13. ^ Kafka (1996, xii).
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Online texts

- Works by Franz Kafka at Project Gutenberg
- The Kafka Project Project initiated in 1998 with the purpose of publishing online all Kafka texts in German, in the form of the manuscripts

External links

- Das Schloss The Modern Word's Kafka site, with an in-depth biography and various links to reviews, articles, and other Kafka info
- The Kafka Project
- The Trials of Franz Kafka by Kelly Grovier in The Observer
- Kafka Project The SDSU Kafka Project in California-the ongoing search for Kafka's missing writings stolen by the Gestapo in 1933.
- The Kafka Society Of America
- Franz Kafka Online - The Works and Life of

Franz Kafka

- Essay on Kafka from Kenyon Review
- Franz Kafka (1883-1924)
- Kafka Critics
- Kafka at the Literature, Arts, and Medicine Database including brief, insightful summaries and essays of several of his stories
- Vladimir Nabokov's lecture on "The Metamorphosis"
- Kafka in Film Internet Movie Database listing of Soderbergh's film, Kafka.
- Franz Kafka's Album, Franz Kafka receives a tribute in this album of "recomposed photographs".
- Franz Kafka and Libertarian Socialism A look at Kafka and anarchism.
- The Diaries of Franz Kafka serialised as a weblog
- Franz Kafka at the Internet Movie Database
- Kafka bibliography, with dates and details of original publications. (German)
- Kafka's works: text, concordances and frequency list
- 1991 ReadAudio interview with Federick Karl, author of *Franz Kafka: Representative Man* by Don Swaim
- Kafka 'Bookweb' on literary website The Ledge, with suggestions for further reading.

- Laughing with Kafka by David Foster Wallace

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