



The Metamorphosis (Norton Critical Editions)

By Franz Kafka

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Franz Kafka's 1915 masterpiece is presented in this Norton Critical Edition in the acclaimed translation by Stanley Corngold based on the definitive German edition.

The novella is fully annotated and is accompanied by selected textual variants. Backgrounds and Contexts introduces readers to *The Metamorphosis* in the richest possible setting. The links between the author's life and his work are explored through an examination of his personal writings. Kafka's letters and diary entries illuminate the creative process behind his portrait of Gregor Samsa, his family, and their nightmarish ordeal. Criticism collects seven essays from the period 1970-95 representing the most important currents in literary theory?semiotics, feminism, identity philosophy, New Historicism, and post-Freudian cultural psychoanalysis. The essays offer a variety of perspectives on the novella by Iris Bruce, Nina Pelikan Straus, Kevin W. Sweeney, Mark Anderson, Hartmut Binder, Eric Santner, and Stanley Corngold. A Chronology and Selected Bibliography are also included.

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The Metamorphosis (Norton Critical Editions) By Franz Kafka Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #517000 in Books
- Published on: 1996-02-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.40" h x .60" w x 5.20" l, .55 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 232 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

“Kafka’s survey of the insectile situation of young Jews in inner Bohemia can hardly be improved upon: ‘With their posterior legs they were still glued to their father’s Jewishness and with their wavering anterior legs they found no new ground.’ There is a sense in which Kafka’s Jewish question (‘What have I in common with Jews?’) has become everybody’s question, Jewish alienation the template for all our doubts. What is Muslimness? What is femaleness? What is Polishness? These days we all find our anterior legs flailing before us. We’re all insects, all *Ungeziefer*, now.”

—Zadie Smith

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“Kafka engaged in no technical experiments whatsoever; without in any way changing the German language, he stripped it of its involved constructions until it became clear and simple, like everyday speech purified of slang and negligence. The common experience of Kafka’s readers is one of general and vague fascination, even in stories they fail to understand, a precise recollection of strange and seemingly absurd images and descriptions—until one day the hidden meaning reveals itself to them with the sudden evidence of a truth simple and incontestable.”

—Hannah ArendtÃfÃfÃ,ÃfÃ,Ã,Ã

From the Trade Paperback edition. --From the Trade Paperback edition.

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: German

From the Inside Flap

"When Gregor Samsa woke up one morning from unsettling dreams, he found himself changed in his bed into a monstrous vermin." With this startling, bizarre, yet surprisingly funny first sentence, Kafka begins his masterpiece, "The Metamorphosis. It is the story of a young man who, transformed overnight into a giant beetlelike insect, becomes an object of disgrace to his family, an outsider in his own home, a quintessentially alienated man. A harrowing -- though absurdly 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. As W.H. Auden wrote, "Kafka is important to us because his predicament is the predicament of modern man."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Willie Long:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to

something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book may be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the reserve untitled The Metamorphosis (Norton Critical Editions) can be great book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

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