

The Metamorphosis and Other Stories (Dover Thrift Editions)

By Franz Kafka

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Since his death in 1924, Kafka has come to be regarded as one of the greatest modern writers, one whose work brilliantly explores the anxiety, futility, and complexity of modern life. The precision and clarity of Kafka's style, its powerful symbolism, and his existential exploration of the human condition have given his work universal significance.
In addition to the title selection, considered by many critics Kafka's most perfect work, this collection includes "The Judgment," "In the Penal Colony," "A Country Doctor," and "A Report to an Academy." Stanley Appelbaum has provided excellent new English translation of the stories and a brief Note placing them within Kafka's oeuvre.
A selection of the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

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The Metamorphosis and Other Stories (Dover Thrift Editions) By Franz Kafka Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #30678 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 1996-04-12
- Released on: 1996-04-12
- Original language: German
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.22" h x .26" w x 5.22" l, .19 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 96 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Kuper has adapted short works by Kafka into comics before, but here he tackles the most famous one of all: the jet-black comedy that ensues after the luckless Gregor Samsa turns into a gigantic bug. The story loses a bit in translation (and the typeset text looks awkward in the context of Kuper's distinctly handmade drawings). A lot of the humor in the original comes from the way Kafka plays the story's absurdities absolutely deadpan, and the visuals oversell the joke, especially since Kuper draws all the human characters as broad caricatures. Even so, he works up a suitably creepy frisson, mostly thanks to his drawing style. Executed on scratchboard, it's a jittery, woodcut-inspired mass of sharp angles that owes a debt to both Frans Masereel (a Belgian woodcut artist who worked around Kafka's time) and MAD magazine's Will Elder. The knotty walls and floors of the Samsas' house look like they're about to dissolve into dust. In the book's best moments, Kuper lets his unerring design sense and command of visual shorthand carry the story. The jagged forms on the huge insect's belly are mirrored by folds in business clothes; thinking about the debt his parents owe his employer, Gregor imagines his insectoid body turning into money slipping through an hourglass. Every thing and person in this Metamorphosis seems silhouetted and carved, an effect that meshes neatly with Kafka's sense of nightmarish unreality.
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From School Library Journal
Adult/High School-Gregor Samsa wakes up and discovers he has been changed into a giant cockroach. Thus begins "The Metamorphosis," and Kuper translates this story masterfully with his scratchboard illustrations. The text is more spare, but the visuals are so strongly rendered that little of the original is changed or omitted. Though the story remains set in Kafka's time, Kuper has added some present-day touches, such as fast-food restaurants, that do not detract from the tale. He has used the medium creatively, employing unusual perspectives and panel shapes, and text that even crawls on the walls and ceilings, as Gregor does. The roach has an insect body but human facial expressions. Once he is pelted with the apple, readers can watch his rapid decline, as his body becomes more wizened and his face more gaunt. This is a faithful rendition rather than an illustrated abridgment.
Jamie Watson, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore
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From Booklist
Kuper follows his adaptations of shorter Kafka stories (*Give It Up!*, 1995) with one of the author's most renowned works, the tale of Gregor Samsa, who wakes one morning to find himself transformed into a giant insect. Gregor's plight, his growing alienation from his horrified family, and his gradual acceptance of the metamorphosis have come to be viewed as the quintessential symbolic depiction of modern existence. Against all expectations, Kuper's cartoonish style doesn't throw off the story's balance by accentuating Kafka's black humor. Rather, Kuper's visual depiction of Gregor's agony and the family's cruelty toward him points up what is disturbing in the tale, and the portrayal of Gregor's physical deterioration is truly harrowing. Moreover, Kuper's signature scratchboard technique, which resembles traditional woodcut style, suits the story's period, while his lively, expressive drawing lends contemporary vitality. Remaining faithful to its literary origin, Kuper thoroughly inhabits the tale, making his realization a genuine work of posthumous collaboration. The result is a Classics Illustrated with class. *Gordon Flagg*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cory Kyle:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be update about what going on or data even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe may update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to a person is you don't know which you should start with. This The Metamorphosis and Other Stories (Dover Thrift Editions) is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Jerry Goble:

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the books. But also they write about the ability about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors in this world always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write to the book. One of them is this The Metamorphosis and Other Stories (Dover Thrift Editions).

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