

跟卡夫卡打招呼

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如果你想跟現代派文學宗師卡夫卡(Franz Kafka 1883-1924)打招呼,但又不曉德文的話,Joachim Neugroschel的英譯本*The Great Short Works of Franz Kafka*是一條不錯的捷徑。

卡夫卡的作品篇幅不長,但是作者的內心世界複雜,表達手法又迂迴隱晦,所以不易解讀。不過,作品的思想越吊詭反而越引人入勝。

卡夫卡生於十九世紀末的布拉格。他有猶太人的血統,卻在德語的環境中受教育。當時正值奧匈帝國土崩瓦解的前夕,社會動盪不安,老百姓生活愁苦。卡的父親專制嚴苛,致令父子疏離、關係緊張。他身處文化、民族和家庭的危機邊緣,對於種族的隔離、社會的衝突、個人的沮喪與無助,體驗深刻。他對周遭不堪的現象不斷反思,深受存在主義影響。

卡夫卡感情澎湃,滿腔怨憤無處抒發,終於在寫作找到一點慰藉。他公餘埋首創作,奮筆疾書,作品不論是小說、隨想、偶拾,還是詩歌、家書等,都瀰漫着焦慮、疑惑、落寞、徬徨,

甚至歇斯底里。

卡夫卡的文學境界是獨一無二的。他喜歡東一章、西一句,初看似漫不經心,自言自語,但只要花點耐性,鏗而不捨,跟在他後頭,就會不期然進入了他的世界——一個充滿奇幻詭異、不合常理、荒謬矛盾的世界。

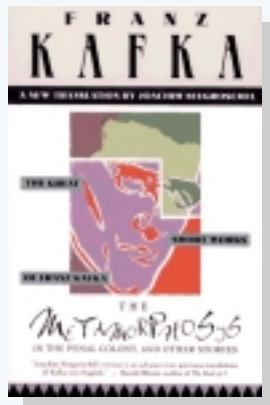
他的文字意象豐富,又喜用比喻,往往言有盡而意無窮,令人入迷。卡夫卡小說的有趣之處,是每個人都可以憑自己的想像,在不同的層次上詮釋他的故事。

讀卡夫卡的作品,很容易不由自主的給他牽引。他在空寂的小鎮街頭上躑躅,低迴嘆息,而你也輕輕的挽著他的手,默默地踏着那細碎的鵝卵石小路,在昏淡的古老街燈下,幽幽地走向那邈不可測的

生命的另一端。

就算他變成了嚇人的甲蟲,你也不會嫌棄“牠”,反而為牠可憐的遭遇而掩卷輕歎。

卡夫卡的篇章感人、耐讀,因為翰墨中情真意切,思想深邃,而且文采斐然。難道這還不夠打動你去跟他打個招呼?



Bookworm



The Atlas of Literature Connecting Places and Literature

Austin, Dickens, James and the Brontes are all great names to literature aficionados and novel lovers alike. While poring over tantalising stories of love and hate, good and evil, have you ever wondered what the real London of Dickens or the rugged moorlands of the Brontes was like? If yes, take up *The Atlas of Literature*, and you will find the answer.

The Atlas of Literature presents a comprehensive picture of the impact of place on literature and vice versa. In particular, it explores the fascinating connection between writers and places. It describes the places the writers came from, those they travelled to and made their own, the literary communities they formed, as well as the landscapes, cafes, theatres and other places which were immortalised in their work. This reference book will give you a much clearer idea of the mise-en-scène of the masterpieces of the world's greatest writers: Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Austin, Dickens, the Brontes, Pushkin, James, Miller, O'Neill,



to name just a few.

The Atlas of Literature comprises a full range of maps which locate key towns and cities, plot actual and imaginary journeys and places, and show the buildings and places that the writers lived in or visited. Well-annotated drawings, photographs and illustrations give the maps a sense of immediacy.

Compiled by an international team of literary biographers, novelists and scholars such as Roy Potter, Rupert Christiansen and Arthur Miller, *The Atlas of Literature* is an important reference for those who want to venture a little further into the fascinating world of the works they cherish. The editor, Malcolm Bradbury, is a novelist, literary critic and television scriptwriter. He was the Professor of American Studies at the University of East Anglia until his retirement in 1995. Sir Malcolm is celebrated for his influence on a whole generation of aspiring novelists.

