



The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay

By Louis Begley

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley

A new biography of Western literature's most iconic writer, from the acclaimed novelist and author of *About Schmidt*.

Kafkaesque: the very word evokes tortuous bureaucracy, crushing self-doubt, and an almost unbearable inadequacy in the face of higher powers. After Kafka, it can be said, literature was not the same. In the few novels and short stories he left behind, he distilled the horrors of the new age. Kafka's is the voice of the outsider—that is, the voice of each one of us—at once defined by its affiliations and completely, utterly alone.

The product of both a transitional age (the beginning of the 20th century) and a territory in flux (Czechoslovakia), Kafka spoke and wrote German in Czech territory. He was a Jew among Christians, a non-observant Jew among believers. Louis Begley, himself a multilingual exile and, like Kafka, a lawyer and writer, renders Kafka's life with sensitivity and insight. Begley's discussion of Kafka's masterpiece *The Trial*, along with shorter works such as "The Metamorphosis," opens a window on a tormented soul, one of the most intriguing figures of the modern period.

 [Download The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Fran ...pdf](#)

The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay

By Louis Begley

The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley

A new biography of Western literature's most iconic writer, from the acclaimed novelist and author of *About Schmidt*.

Kafkaesque: the very word evokes tortuous bureaucracy, crushing self-doubt, and an almost unbearable inadequacy in the face of higher powers. After Kafka, it can be said, literature was not the same. In the few novels and short stories he left behind, he distilled the horrors of the new age. Kafka's is the voice of the outsider—that is, the voice of each one of us—at once defined by its affiliations and completely, utterly alone.

The product of both a transitional age (the beginning of the 20th century) and a territory in flux (Czechoslovakia), Kafka spoke and wrote German in Czech territory. He was a Jew among Christians, a non-observant Jew among believers. Louis Begley, himself a multilingual exile and, like Kafka, a lawyer and writer, renders Kafka's life with sensitivity and insight. Begley's discussion of Kafka's masterpiece *The Trial*, along with shorter works such as "The Metamorphosis," opens a window on a tormented soul, one of the most intriguing figures of the modern period.

The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley
Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #584090 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Atlas Co.
- Published on: 2008-06-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .87" h x 5.48" w x 7.15" l, .69 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 208 pages

 [Download The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Fran ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Although numerous biographers have guided readers on a journey through Kafka's labyrinthine life and writings, celebrated novelist Begley (*About Schmidt*) cannily allows Kafka to speak in his own words as much as possible, weaving selections from letters, journals, novels and stories into a biographical narrative. Kafka's father wanted a law career for his son, but Kafka's will to write was so strong that he felt a constant trembling on [his] forehead. His period of greatest creativity came between 1912 and 1917, when he wrote, among others, *The Metamorphosis* and most of *The Trial*. Begley points out that many misread Kafka by making him synonymous with his characters. There has also, Begley writes, been an intense feeding frenzy of exegetes and other types of Kafka scholars circling around *The Trial*... one can almost hear scholastic dentures going clack-clack, subjecting the works to critical theories of every stripe. Begley's book emphasizes the importance of valuing the aesthetic and emotional impact of Kafka's work, offering a fresh glimpse of the tortured genius behind some of the 20th century's most perplexing and most rewarding writings. Photos. (June)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

Kafka may be the most influential twentieth-century fiction writer; his realistic fantasies of urban angst anticipated, so it seems, the predicament of the modern-to-postmodern citizen as an unworthy, petty, guilty, disposable cog in an inscrutable machine. In four long chapters on Kafka's family and employment, his Jewishness, his love life, and his final illness, novelist Begley (*About Schmidt*, 1996) discloses how much Kafka's protagonists owe to their creator's character as a self-made man's neurasthenic, diffident son; an irreligious Jew sentimental about the holiness of simple shtetl dwellers; an exasperatingly ambivalent suitor; and a stoical sufferer of a rapidly progressing, fatal disease. Yet those protagonists weren't autobiographical, says the closing chapter on the major works, while it persuades us that they are so much alike that one shouldn't feel guilty for reading only, say, *The Trial* and "The Metamorphosis," and calling it quits with Kafka. Even in so economical a sketch of his life as Begley's, Kafka tries one's patience, and alas, Begley merely asserts rather than argues what a fine writer of German Kafka was. --Ray Olson

About the Author

Louis Begley's first novel, *Wartime Lies*, won the PEN/Hemingway Award, the Prix Médicis, and the *Irish Times*-Aer Lingus International Fiction Prize. Since then, he has published seven novels, including *About Schmidt*, made into a movie starring Jack Nicholson and Kathy Bates. His most recent publication is *Matters of Honor*. He lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Guadalupe Baxter:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important usually. The book *The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay* seemed to be making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The e-book *The Tremendous World I Have*

Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay is not only giving you more new information but also to become your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship while using book The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay. You never experience lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Ann Tuttle:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a reserve your ability to survive improve then having chance to endure than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay book as beginning and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Lawrence Howe:

Reading a book to get new life style in this season; every people loves to read a book. When you learn a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, these us novel, comics, and soon. The The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay provide you with new experience in reading through a book.

Dora Mohammed:

Beside that The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay in your phone, it may give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or facts. The information and the knowledge you will got here is fresh through the oven so don't always be worry if you feel like an outdated people live in narrow commune. It is good thing to have The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay because this book offers to you personally readable information. Do you sometimes have book but you do not get what it's exactly about. Oh come on, that won't happen if you have this within your hand. The Enjoyable blend here cannot be questionable, including treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss the idea? Find this book along with read it from at this point!

Download and Read Online The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley #TP72J9LDASX

Read The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley for online ebook

The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley books to read online.

Online The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley ebook PDF download

The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley Doc

The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley Mobipocket

The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley EPub

TP72J9LDASX: The Tremendous World I Have Inside My Head: Franz Kafka: A Biographical Essay By Louis Begley