



## The Metamorphosis

*Franz Kafka (1883 - 1924)*

Read by:	David Barnes	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	2 hours 34 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1091
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758936691
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Fiction		

*The Metamorphosis* tells the tale of a traveling salesman, Gregor Samsa, who one day wakes up to find that he has been transformed into a “monstrous vermin”. Part I begins with the discovery of his transformation. Thinking at first he is dreaming, he finds he cannot communicate with his family or unlock the door to his bedroom. When he finally unlocks the door and enters the room his family is horrified and forces him back in. Part II describes family adapting to their strange situation. Gregor becomes acclimated to his new body, climbing the walls and ceiling. After a scuffle in his bedroom his father pelts him with apples, causing serious injury. In Part III Gregor ventures into the living room to listen to his sister play the violin for boarders, who spot him and move out immediately. The family, exhausted, wishes

Gregor would leave. Hearing this, Gregor retreats to his bedroom and dies. Relieved and remorseless, the family makes plans to find a suitable husband for their daughter.

First published in 1915, *The Metamorphosis* is one of the most original and provocative stories ever written. It is considered one of the foundational works of modern literature.

**Franz Kafka** (July 3, 1883 – June 3, 1924) was an author best known for his works *The Metamorphosis*, *The Trial*, *The Castle*, and *In the Penal Colony*. He was born the eldest of six into a German-speaking Jewish family in the retail business in Prague, then the capitol of Bohemia in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, later Czechoslovakia. He wrote in German in a culture that was dominantly Czech. He had a difficult relationship with his father, who was self-centered and overbearing, and as his mother worked in the family business he was raised with his sisters by governesses. He was educated as a lawyer and worked for an insurance company while writing in his spare time.

Few of Kafka’s works were published during his lifetime; his novels *The Trial* and *Amerika* were unfinished at his death and were published posthumously by his friend Max Brod. Kafka’s work is fraught with an angst that derives from the by-products of the rapidly modernizing world: profound alienation, physical and psychological brutality, bureaucratic labyrinths, and mysterious transmogrifications. As perhaps the first to master these themes, he is universally esteemed as one of the most influential authors of the 20th century.