



Franz Kafka: The Poet of Shame and Guilt

By Saul Friedlander

Yale University Press, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 203 x 135 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A highly original and engaging appraisal of Kafka s life, work, legacy, and thought Franz Kafka was the poet of his own disorder. Throughout his life he struggled with a pervasive sense of shame and guilt that left traces in his daily existence-in his many letters, in his extensive diaries, and especially in his fiction. This stimulating book investigates some of the sources of Kafka s personal anguish and its complex reflections in his imaginary world. In his query, Saul Friedlander probes major aspects of Kafka s life (family, Judaism, love and sex, writing, illness, and despair) that until now have been skewed by posthumous censorship. Contrary to Kafka s dying request that all his papers be burned, Max Brod, Kafka s closest friend and literary executor, edited and published the author s novels and other works soon after his death in 1924. Friedlander shows that, when reinserted in Kafka s letters and diaries, deleted segments lift the mask of sainthood frequently attached to the writer and thus restore previously hidden aspects of his individuality.



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