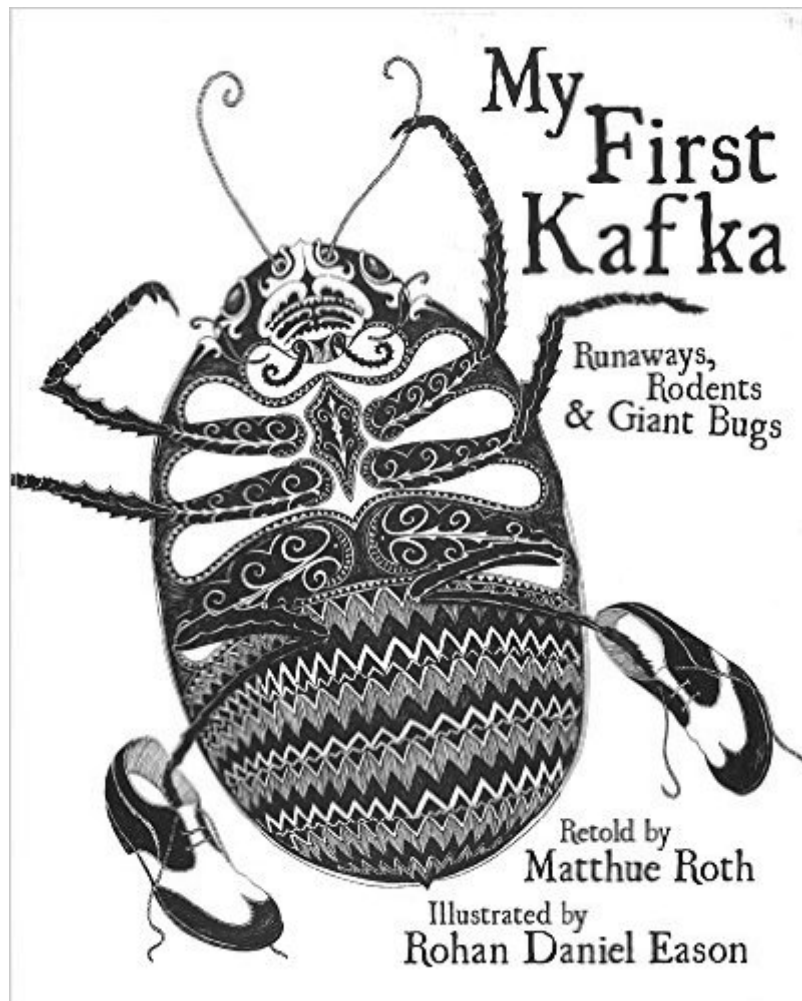


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# My First Kafka: Runaways, Rodents, And Giant Bugs



## Synopsis

Runaway children who meet up with monsters. A giant talking bug. A secret world of mouse-people. The stories of Franz Kafka are wondrous and nightmarish, miraculous and scary. In *My First Kafka*, storyteller Matthue Roth and artist Rohan Daniel Eason adapt three Kafka stories into startling, creepy, fun stories for all ages. With *My First Kafka*, the master storyteller takes his rightful place alongside Maurice Sendak, Edward Gorey, and Lemony Snicket as a literary giant for all ages.

## Book Information

Age Range: 1 - 16 years

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: One Peace Books (June 15, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1935548255

ISBN-13: 978-1935548256

Product Dimensions: 8 x 1 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #224,127 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish](#) #413 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bugs & Spiders](#) #1560 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies](#)

## Customer Reviews

I've enjoyed Matthue Roth's work before now, but this morning, his latest work, *My First Kafka*, arrived and it is beyond incredible. Never, in my wildest dreams, did I ever think I'd be able to introduce my young children to Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, and yet, through this fabulous book, I now can. The combination of eerily beautiful language and starkly beautiful black and white illustrations is absolutely perfect. This gets my highest recommendation. So fun! For anyone who has ever wanted to introduce their children to the classics of literature at a young age. Plus, it arrived with a tiny handmade book inside, hand-drawn by the author, that included another brief story. Bonus goodness.

Who am I kidding? I didn't think a kid turning 3 would be crazy for Kafka. This kid's book is a great one for the intellectual parents in your life. Sedate the kid in front of the TV with *Spongebob* blasting and read yourself this beautiful book. Look around and the shattered remains of your life and fall

into a beautifully illustrated pit of existential despair.

What, you ask, does the title of this book mean? I did too until a few weeks ago when I had the opportunity to hear the Author (Matthue Roth) read from his book as a century-old synagogue in Philadelphia. Extremely personable and animated in his reading style, he kept the few children in attendance - as well as the adults in attendance - focused on him. And, how a child will perceive this book depends on the person reading it to them. More importantly, while there are characters in the three short stories which Roth "retells", are images children can relate to (bugs, families and young girls), the stories don't really have a plot or an ending and it would take some energy on a parent's part to explain what is really going on. The slim 32-page book contains three stories written by Franz Kafka. The first, "Excursion in the Mountains" is so short that it only has 116 words and the last one (which was actually the last story that Kafka wrote before he died) is not much longer. The centerpiece is one of Kafka's most well-known: "The Metamorphosis" - a story in three parts. It's here that the black and white illustrations by Rohan Daniel Eason really come into play and children will enjoy the images of the Giant bug which is the "fate" of the character Georg. Eason's drawings remind me a lot of those of Edward Gorey. Honestly, it's too much to expect someone to try to related to children what is really going on in Kafka's stories. Heck, there are college courses devoted to opinions on the symbols he provides. By Roth and Eason do as good a job as can be expected. If only Roth recorded his reading and provided it as a CD in the book. Then parents could have HIM read the stories to their children same way he did at the reading I attended. (Okay, then it's the parents' turn to answer questions sure to be raised.) I hope you found this review both informative and helpful. Steve Ramm "Anything Phonographic"

Or for adults to enjoy! I bought it as one of the Christmas gifts for friends who have two small children. The adults are avid readers raising two more avid readers. They are quirky and I knew they would enjoy and cherish such a unique book. A good buy for anyone who enjoys unusual books.

I bought this for a friend's baby shower, and read it before giving it to her. I loved it, and so did she and the dad to be! What better time than a baby shower to be reminded that metamorphosis can be a wonderful thing!

You know how when you read The Metamorphosis, you thought it was creepy and odd and you

pretended to get the existential import? It's still like that. At least, now it is shorter, and has great illustrations? My 4 year old is not enlightened, and we both think it's pretty gross. But what fun to open on Xmas!

This beautifully illustrated book takes complicated stories and distills them down to their essence for children to read. There are a couple of parts where it skips over some of what might be important, but also makes the stories less dark for younger children.

I was really excited about this but disappointed at how short it was. Illustrations are cool though and my son enjoyed it. He and I had good conversation on caring for loved ones with long term illnesses.

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