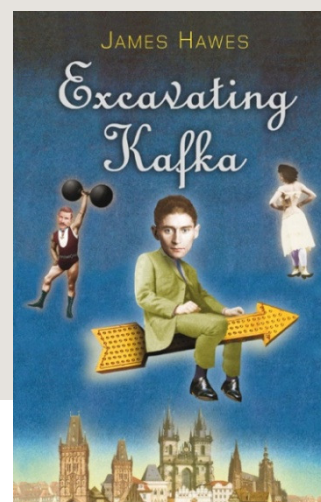


<b>Title</b>	Excavating Kafka
<b>Author</b>	James Hawes
<b>ISBN</b>	9781847245441
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### Description

Kafka's features, and that dreaded word 'Kafkaesque' are known to millions who have never read serious literature. Generations of academics and critics have maintained the image of Franz Kafka as a tortured seer whose works defy interpretation. In *Excavating Kafka* James Hawes reveals the truth that lies beneath the image of a middle-European Nostradamus with a typographically irresistible name.

The real Franz Kafka was no angst-ridden paranoid but a well-groomed young man-about-town who frequented brothels, had regular sex with a penniless-but-pretty girl and subscribed to upmarket pornography, published by the very man who published Kafka's first stories.

*Excavating Kafka* debunks a number of key facets of the Kafka-Myth, including the idea that Kafka was the archetypal genius neglected in his lifetime; that he was stuck in a dead-end job and struggling to find time to write; that he was tormented by fear of sex; and that he had a uniquely terrible, domineering father who had no understanding of his son's needs.

Written with the panache of a gifted comic writer, *Excavating Kafka* is an engaging and involving reassessment of a major figure of literary modernism that will be welcomed and enjoyed by students of Kafka and by general readers alike.

### Sales Points

- An entertaining and authoritative debunking of the myths surrounding perhaps *the* icon of literary modernism
- 2008 is the 125th anniversary of Kafka's birth
- 'James Hawes has matured into a wonderful satirist ... a comic novelist of considerable stature' – *The Guardian*
- 'Comparisons with Evelyn Waugh are not misplaced' – *The Sunday Telegraph* (UK)

### Author Profile

As an Oxford undergraduate James Hawes saw and handled the original manuscript of *The Castle*. After taking a PhD on Nietzsche and Kafka, he held university lecture-ships at Maynooth, Sheffield and Swansea. He is the author of five novels, including *A White Merc with Fins*, *White Powder*, *Green Light* and *Speak For England*.