Contents

Introduction by Ritchie Robertson vii

1 Fame – Too Late for the Author 1
2 The Son of a Shopkeeper, Lost in Prague 4
3 What does a Boy Learn at an Imperial and Royal Secondary School? 18
4 University, Society and Language in the Capital of Bohemia 33
5 'Description of a Struggle': the Insurance Official, his Job, his Plans and his Journeys 51
6 The Only Way to Write! 69
7 Life or Literature? Kafka's Engagements and The Trial 86
8 The Wound 101
9 A Naked Man among the Clothed 115

Notes 130
Further Reading 140
Index 142