

"*Kafka and Wittgenstein* offers a highly original and rigorous reading of six important works by Kafka through the lens of Wittgenstein's philosophy of language. Schuman's book is a forceful and convincing demonstration that complex and subtle ideas do not require complicated and opaque writing, and that thoughtful and insightful literary analysis is best communicated through clear and direct prose, punctuated by moments of playfulness and humor."

—KATA GELLEN, *Duke University*

In *Kafka and Wittgenstein*, Rebecca Schuman undertakes the first ever book-length scholarly examination of Ludwig Wittgenstein's philosophy of language alongside Franz Kafka's prose fiction. In groundbreaking readings, she argues that although many readers of Kafka are searching for what his texts *mean*, in this search we are sorely mistaken. Instead, the problems and illusions we portend to uncover, the important questions we attempt to answer—Is Josef K. guilty? If so, of what? What does Gregor Samsa's transformed body mean? Is Land Surveyor K. a real land surveyor?—themselves presuppose a bigger delusion: that such questions can be asked in the first place. Drawing deeply on the entire range of Wittgenstein's writings, Schuman cannily sheds new light on the enigmatic Kafka.

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Rebecca Schuman

