

Is that Kafka?



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著者:Reiner Stach

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In the course of compiling his highly acclaimed three-volume biography of Kafka, while foraging to libraries and archives from Prague to Israel, Reiner Stach made one astounding discovery after another: unexpected photographs, inconsistencies in handwritten texts, excerpts from letters, and testimonies from Kafka's contemporaries that shed surprising light on his personality and his writing. *Is that Kafka?* presents the crystal granules of the real Kafka: he couldn't lie, but he tried to cheat on his high-school exams; bitten by the fitness fad, he avidly followed the regime of a Danish exercise guru; he drew beautifully; he loved beer; he read biographies voraciously; he made the most beautiful presents, especially for children; odd things made him cry or made him furious; he adored slapstick. Every discovery by Stach turns on its head the stereotypical version of the tortured neurotic—and as each one chips away at the monolithic dark Kafka, the keynote, of all things, becomes laughter.

For *Is that Kafka?* Stach has assembled 99 of his most exciting discoveries, culling the choicest, most entertaining bits, and adding his knowledgeable commentaries. Illustrated with dozens of previously unknown images, this volume is a singular literary pleasure.

### 作者介绍:

Reiner Stach, born in 1951 in Saxony, is the author of the definitive biography of Kafka. The first two volumes, published by Princeton University Press, received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly* ( “superb” ), *Library Journal* ( “a monumental accomplishment” ), *Kirkus* ( “essential” ), and *Booklist* ( “masterful” ). “I can't say enough about the liveliness and richness of Stach's book,” Michael Dirda exclaimed in *The Washington Post*. “Every page feels excited, dynamic, utterly alive.”

In 2010 Kurt Beals was a finalist for the Best Translated Book Award for Anja Utler's *engulf-enkindle*, and in 2012 he won the first ever German Book Office Translation Prize. His translation of Regina Ullmann's *The Country Road* was published by New Directions in 2015.

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