BOOKS

KAFKA:
A Biography
By RONALD RAYMAN
Oxford University Press. $19.95

A review by Gay Dunsiger

Kafka was killed in 1924, a few days after his 41st birthday. He had published two short stories and a novel, but had also written many letters and notes. His life was a series of failures, but his writing was a success. He is now considered a literary genius.

The story of Kafka’s life is well known. He was born in Prague, the son of a wealthy Jewish merchant. He attended the University of Prague, where he studied law. He then worked as a clerk in the city’s bureaucracy.

Kafka’s greatest work is “The Metamorphosis,” a novella that was published posthumously. The story is about a man who wakes up one morning and finds himself transformed into a giant bug. The novel is a commentary on the absurdity of human existence.

Kafka’s life was marked by a constant sense of unease. He was a nervously alienated figure, and his writing reflects this inner turmoil. His work is characterized by a sense of anxiety, and his characters are often isolated and unhappy.

Kafka’s relationships with women were also unsuccessful. He had a brief affair with a woman named Felice Bauer, but she broke up with him after a short time.

Kafka’s writing was influential, and he is considered one of the great modernist authors. His work has been translated into many languages, and it continues to be read and studied today.

Kafka died in 1924, at the age of 41. He left behind a legacy of writing that is still relevant today.