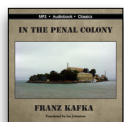


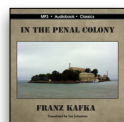
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In the Penal Colony

Franz Kafka (1883 – 1924)

Read by: Peter Yearsley Language: English
 Length: 1 hour and 6 minutes Style: Solo
 Genre(s): Fiction, Short Fiction, Novella, Horror & Supernatural Fiction

Product Formats and Options

Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-6012	0682550992518	\$7.99
MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-6012	0682550992198	\$7.99
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In the Penal Colony centers on the use of an unusual instrument of punishment invented by the deceased former Commandant of a penal colony on an unnamed island. The story unfolds as a demonstration of the machine, which inscribes name of the crime of the convict during a 12-hour period, given by its only operator, the Officer, to a visiting dignitary, the Traveler. The machine is about to be decommissioned on the order of the new Commandant, and the Officer appeals to the Traveler to intercede for its continued use, citing the “religious epiphany” the prisoners undergo in the latter stages of the procedure. In the meantime, the Soldier stands by guarding the Condemned, who is blithely unaware that the procedure he is about to undergo

will kill him. The Traveler deflects the Officer’s appeal but promises to speak privately to the Commandant, which leads to an unexpected turn of events. Like much of Kafka’s work, the story is dark, surreal, and bleak, and here strikes to the very heart of issues of justice, punishment, cruelty, and shame.

Franz Kafka (July 3, 1883 – June 3, 1924) was an author best known for his works *The Metamorphosis*, *The Trial*, *The Castle*, and *In the Penal Colony*. He was born the eldest of six into a German-speaking Jewish family in the retail business in Prague, then the capitol of Bohemia in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, later Czechoslovakia. He wrote in German in a culture that was dominantly Czech. He had a difficult relationship with his father, who was self-centered and overbearing, and as his mother worked in the family business he was raised with his sisters by governesses. He was educated as a lawyer and worked for an insurance company while writing in his spare time.

Few of Kafka’s works were published during his lifetime; his novels *The Trial* and *Amerika* were unfinished at his death and were published posthumously by his friend Max Brod. Kafka’s work is fraught with an angst that derives from the by-products of the rapidly modernizing world: profound alienation, physical and psychological brutality, bureaucratic labyrinths, and mysterious transmogrifications. As perhaps the first to master these themes, he is universally esteemed as one of the most influential authors of the 20th century.