

## AUDIO FICTION

### FRANZ AND FELICE

Meeting Berlin businesswoman Felice Bauer triggered Kafka's first real artistic outpouring: his breakthrough. Suddenly, in the tiny, cramped room next to his parents' bedroom – a room his parents would have to walk through to get to their own bedroom – the 29-year-old Czech insurance clerk wrote feverishly ... The Man Who Disappeared, The Metamorphosis, and The Judgment. Kafka lived and wrote in the shadow of his father – an abusive, controlling narcissist he was terrified of ("Everything I've ever written was about you."); the dark presence always ready to enter from the room next door.

So why, when the opportunity to leave home for Felice, did Kafka start sabotaging their relationship? Writing directly to Bauer's father, petitioning him against his own suitability, blackening his own name with Felice's friends, and when the First World War broke out, twice attempting to sign up – not from love of country, but for hatred of his own life?

An intimate and mischievously telling of Franz Kafka's most significant romantic relationship. Franz and Felice follows the twists and turns of the writer's relationship with Felice Bauer, how events in their relationship burst violently into Kafka's stories and imagination, and how his stories responded.

Competing for the award

PRIX EUROPA | Best European Audio Fiction of the Year

25

### FRANZ AND FELICE

### UNITED KINGDOM

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