

Maxwell's House of Books

presents

a reading by KPBS anchor/producer

Kathi Diamant

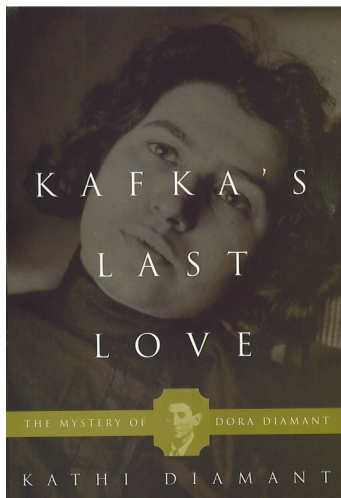


author of

KAFKA'S LAST LOVE

THE MYSTERY OF DORA DIAMANT

Kathi Diamant, author of *Kafka's Last Love: The Mystery of Dora Diamant*, the woman who gave Kafka the happiest year of his life, will read passages about one of the world's greatest love stories, on Monday, April 7th at 7:00pm. Franz Kafka died in Dora's arms in 1924, largely unpublished and unknown. Today he is considered one of literature's most influential—and profoundly misunderstood—figures, who inspired some of the most important writers of the past century. But seeking to understand his haunting works, portrayals of Kafka have been prolific, often dark, and psychologically all over the map. According to Diamant, a perspective of Kafka the man, rather than the writer, is essential to understanding him. After his death, Dora and those who knew Kafka best watched in horror as he became a caricature of his fictional prota-



gonists. Scholars who wrote so knowingly about Kafka knew nothing of the man who was a “born playmate, usually cheerful, infinitely kind, and always ready for a joke.” Diamant’s quest to exhume Dora’s life from obscurity has shed new light on Kafka, revealing a surprising dimension to the term “Kafkaesque,” and requiring new biographies of Kafka. The discovery that Kafka’s journals and letters written during his last year had been stolen from Dora by the Gestapo, and could be recovered, led Kathi Diamant to begin the Kafka Project at SDSU. Yet for Diamant, the full story has not yet been told, and finding the missing papers is part of Dora’s legacy. She will also invite the public to join her in following Kafka and Dora’s footsteps to Prague, Krakow and Berlin, on a “Magical Mystery Literary History Tour” on June 15-24, 2008.

Monday, April 7th at 7:00pm

Cosmos Coffee Cafe 8278 La Mesa Blvd

more information at maxwellshouseofbooks.com