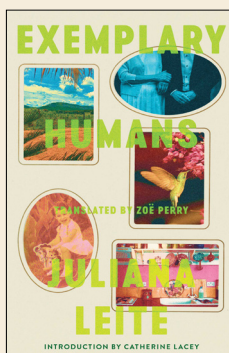


EXEMPLARY HUMANS

Juliana Leite, translated from Portuguese by Zoë Perry

1. The narrator of *Exemplary Humans* is a centenarian who often uses “death” and “disappearance” interchangeably. How does Natalia’s experience with and closeness to death shape her perspective in the novel?
2. Very little happens in the novel’s present; instead it is full of moments that Natalia “still remembers.” What literary strategies does *Exemplary Humans* use to structure its narrative around memory?
3. How does the novel represent the decades-long (1964-1985) military dictatorship in Brazil and its forms of political and social repression?
4. What is the role of the COVID-19 pandemic in the novel?
5. Describe the voice of the narrator in *Exemplary Humans*. How is the novel’s voice shaped by language, style, and other literary techniques? What impact does its voice have on the reader?
6. How does *Exemplary Humans* portray the relationship between the mother and her daughter who lives far away? What is its perspective on distant parent-child relationships?
7. What is the relationship between third- and first-person narration in *Exemplary Humans*? How do shifts in narrative perspective impact the reading experience?
8. In her introduction to the novel, Catherine Lacey draws attention to the novel’s portrayal of “the boring bliss of living” (pg. 3). What are some of the everyday pleasures described in the book? What is *Exemplary Humans*’ perspective on what makes life worth living?



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