

Pet Names

Connection and identity in second-person fiction.

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Vol 2:

*Hello, is it you you're looking for? Connection and
identity in second-person fiction.*

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Declaration

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Abstract

The creative work, *Pet Names*, is eight loosely interrelated narratives. Each narrative depicts the nuances and idiosyncrasies of a generic suburban character who fails to fulfil a need for interpersonal connection and self-satisfaction. The narratives are vignettes of each character's daily life and include the mundane, irrational and absurd. The narratee/protagonist in *Pet Names* is addressed using the second-person pronoun.

The exegesis is entitled *Hello, is it you you're looking for? Connection and identity in second-person fiction*. It comprises several analytical chapters that explore ways in which second-person narration not only complements but also highlights the thematic elements of a text that involve interpersonal connections and notions of self. The exegesis examines the second-person narrative works of authors Julio Cortazar, Miranda July and Lorrie Moore and analyses how these individual authors' use of second-person narration reflects their rhetorical interests concerning interpersonal relations and definitions of selfhood. The exegesis cites a number of narrative theories concerning second-person narration and relates them to *Pet Names* and to the writings of the above-mentioned authors. Also included is a chapter on narrative empathy that deconstructs the complications involved in representing unempathetic characters. It debates whether reader-empathy is necessary in narrative, particularly in my own writing, where there is a questioning of narratorial 'appropriateness' by deploying challenging forms of address.

Hello, is it you you're looking for?
Connection and identity in second-person
fiction.

(Exegesis)

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