Synopsis of *The Human Stain*

Coleman Silk is a black person with fair skin. In his youth he gets the pressure from the whites since he is a black person. He is treated unfairly and considered to be as inferior. This situation demands him to do something to change his life. He changes his identity by being a Jew. His new identity brings him to get what he wants.

Faunia is raped by his stepfather when she is a child. No one supports her including his own mother and psychiatrist because Faunia’s stepfather has a lot of money to control them. Hence, Faunia runs away from home and lives as she chooses to be. She marries a stupid man named Les Farley and pretends to be illiterate.

Both Coleman and Faunia get what they want but they have to accept the consequences. They lose many things including their own lives.
Biography of Philip Roth

Philip Milton Roth was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1933. He is an American novelist, poet, and short story writer. He was educated in Newark public school, and later attended Bucknell University and Chicago University. Besides being a writer, he is also a teacher. He teaches creative writing at both Iowa and Princeton University and literature at Pennsylvania University. He has lived in Rome, London, Chicago, and New York. Now, he lives in Connecticut.

Roth is very talented in writing. It is shown through his writing which has a good style and almost all his works get awards. He gets an award in his first book, Goodbye Columbus (1959). The book gets National Book Award and Daroff Award, Jewish book Council of America. There are a lot of awards he gets after his first writing. The Human Stain also got PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction, and France’s Medicis foreign book prize. Other recent awards he got are America’s Best Novelists in 2001, 2002rs’Gold Metal for fiction, 2001 Franz Kafka Prize (Czech Republic), American Academy of Arts and Letter National Book Foundation Medal for distinguished Contribution to American Letter in 2002.

Many of Roth’s works focus on Jewish American life, which becomes his characteristic. Goodbye, Colomnbus tells about the Jewish life in postwar America and Jewish American experience. This book has won the National Book Award for fiction. The Counterlife (1986), Patrimony, and Operation Shylock tell about examination of the relationship between Americans and Israeli Jews.