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Spring 2017

## Ship of Fools

Kevin Grzybowski

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# SHIP OF FOOLS

A Masters Thesis

Presented to

The Graduate College of  
Missouri State University

In Partial Fulfillment

Of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts, English

By

Kevin Grzybowski

May 2017

## **SHIP OF FOOLS**

English

Missouri State University, May 2017

Master of Arts

Kevin Grzybowski

### **ABSTRACT**

In this collection of stories, the absurd deterritorializes characters, plots, and ideologies throughout a combination of full-length narratives and flash fiction. In the process of reterritorialization, new meaning is added to archetypical narratives (The Bible's creation myth) and to familiar characters (the impoverished man, the cruel industrialist). Through these narratives, humanity is explored through unconventional means as characters find themselves at odds with supernatural forces, whether it be reincarnation, interaction with deities, or being haunted by the grotesque rat king. While this is a far cry from realism, the absurdism allows the reader unusual ways of seeing the same world.

**KEYWORDS:** flash fiction, deterritorialization, reterritorialization, absurdism, supernatural

This abstract is approved as to form and content

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Mike Czyzniejewski  
Chairperson, Advisory Committee  
Missouri State University

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A Masters Thesis  
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May 2017

Approved:

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Mike Czyzniejewski

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Julie Masterson, PhD: Dean, Graduate College

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