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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
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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

Mike Czyzniejewski
Chairperson, Advisory Committee
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