

*Disco Apocalypse : Liminal Fictoscapes*

*and*

*Hatricks: Where did the White Rabbit Go?*

Submitted by Lisa Pizaro

Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology)

Post Graduate Diploma in Professional Writing (Victoria University)

Post Graduate Certificate in Education (Monash University)

Masters of Arts in Creative Writing (University of Melbourne)

A Research Thesis in two volumes submitted in total fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Communication Culture and Language

Faculty of Arts

Victoria University  
St Albans, Victoria 3021

2007

## ABSTRACT

This thesis comprises a novel, *Disco Apocalypse: Liminal Fictoscapes*, and an accompanying exegesis, *Hatricks: Where did the White Rabbit Go?* which together explore socio-political and aesthetic currents in contemporary culture and literature by means of an authorial journey. The ultimate aim of the thesis is to create a body of work which applies a critical analysis and produces an original and exhilarating cutting edge narrative.

*Disco Apocalypse* is a contemporary novel set in Melbourne, South America and Japan that explores the lives of two sisters, Kit and Suzy G who take a road/air journey to Peru, Brazil and Hiroshima. Kit is a film maker whose observational skills bring a visual acuity to the description of places and events in the cities and towns visited out on the road. In the course of the novel Suzy G disappears when her plane goes down over Bass Strait and no remains of the aircraft are discovered.

The exegetical narrative was constructed in a manner resembling a series of reflections or reflective surfaces that highlight the images displayed in each segment. This process hovers in liminality, the second stage in a ritual event, where we are caught “betwixt and between”<sup>1</sup> the world of the novel and the world of the exegesis.

---

<sup>1</sup> Arnold Van Gennep (1960) and Victor Turner (1969).

### **Doctor of Philosophy Declaration**

I, Lisa Pizaro, declare that the PhD thesis entitled Volume 1 – *Disco Apocalypse: Liminal Fictoscapes* and volume 2 – *Hatricks: Where did the White Rabbit Go?* is no more than 100,000 words in length including quotes and exclusive of tables, figures, appendices, bibliography, references and footnotes. This thesis contains no material that has been submitted previously, in whole or in part, for the award of any other academic degree or diploma. Except where otherwise indicated, this thesis is my own work.

Signature

Date

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My heartfelt thanks go to my supervisor, Dr Susan Hawthorne, who was initially my tutor in a challenging creative writing class at VU in 1995, and whose optimism and energy buoyed me throughout the dark teatime of the candidature.

I would like to thank Victoria University for providing me with funding to undertake a research trip to Japan in 2004 where I was able to meet a survivor of the 1945 A-bomb in Hiroshima, assisting a long-term ambition which contributed enormously to the novel and exegesis. While in Japan I encountered members of the goth-Lolita and punk sub cultures, which motivated the “Snakeblood” storyline in the novel.

To my fellow members of the writers list: Christine Gillespie, Lara Fergus, Kristy Davidson and Sussan Khadem, I’m glad we could travel on the writing journey together, thanks for lending me your ears. Our experience of traveling together to present at national conferences and at Women’s Worlds 05 in Sth Korea was unforgettable.

My particular thanks go to Lesley Birch who was a reassuring presence throughout my candidature and provided assistance in some very anxious times.

Also, many thanks to Jane Trewin who remained encouraging and informative at all times.

I would also like to thank my friend Jenny Whitehead who I first met at VU in 1994 and who has been an informative and insightful confidante.

VOLUME ONE  
NOVEL

***DISCO APOCALYPSE:  
LIMINAL FICTOSCAPES***

*Disco Apocalypse : Liminal Fictoscapes*

*and*

*Hatricks: Where did the White Rabbit Go?*

Submitted by Lisa Pizaro

Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology)

Post Graduate Diploma in Professional Writing (Victoria University)

Post Graduate Certificate in Education (Monash University)

Masters of Arts in Creative Writing (University of Melbourne)

A Research Thesis in two volumes submitted in total fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Communication Culture and Language

Faculty of Arts

Victoria University  
St Albans, Victoria 3021

January, 2007

**VOLUME TWO**

**EXEGESIS**

***HATRICKS:  
WHERE DID THE WHITE RABBIT GO?***

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION</b>                             | 1.  |
| <b>LIMINAL FICTOSCAPES</b>                                    |     |
| <b>CHAPTER TWO – METHODOLOGY</b>                              | 6.  |
| <b>CONSTRUCTION OF CHARACTER</b>                              |     |
| <b>DECONSTRUCT TITLE</b>                                      |     |
| <b>TELL IT TO THE CAMERA</b>                                  |     |
| <b>THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NUMBER EIGHT</b>                       |     |
| <b>CHAPTER THREE – WHERE AM I?</b>                            | 28. |
| <b>GROWING UP IN THE SHADOW OF THE MUSHROOM<br/>    CLOUD</b> |     |
| <b>CHAPTER FOUR – BETWEEN THE WORLDS</b>                      | 44. |
| <b>DAKOU – TO GO LIKE A SNAKE</b>                             |     |
| <b>KUNDALINI</b>  |     |
| <b>SNAKEBLOOD</b>   |     |



|   |      |
|---|------|
| <b>CHAPTER FIVE – BEWITCHED</b>   | 58.  |
| <b>HOW I CHOSE A COVEN</b>  |      |
| <b>THE WITCH OF POSITANO</b>  |      |
| <b>THE WITCH OF THE CROSS</b>   |      |
| <br>  |      |
| <b>CHAPTER SIX – THE WORLD IS A VAMPIRE:<br/>    WRITING IN THE FACE OF THE ABYSS</b>               | 71.  |
| <br>  |      |
| <b>CHAPTER SEVEN – MAGICK, RITUAL AND BODY STYLE:<br/>    CONTEMPORARY FICTION FOR THE BACKPACK</b> | 78.  |
| <b>A COSMIC GRABBAG FOR A GENERATION ON THE RUN</b>   |      |
| <b>THE RITUAL OF STORYTELLING</b>   |      |
| <br>  |      |
| <b>CHAPTER EIGHT – CONCLUSION<br/>    HATRICKS; WHERE DID THE WHITE RABBIT GO?</b>                  | 95.  |
| <br>  |      |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>   | 100. |