

ABSTRACT

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Title: THE PROBLEM WITH MY ANIMUS, EXPLORED: SHORT STORIES
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The purpose of this thesis is to explore multiple genres of fiction and my own personal writing style as it relates to them. Because I've done mostly contemporary fiction throughout my concentration, I wanted to focus on the many fantasy subgenres that exist in order to stretch my writing muscles further. There are four short stories in total. The collection opens with "Daniel," which is a first person narrative in the vein of magical realism. It focuses on a recent college graduate as she decides to summon Satan for help in her quest to find her soul mate. Next, "Gorgon" is a third person omniscient retelling of Greek mythology, specifically concerned with Medusa and Artemis as they form an alliance to take revenge against the patriarchy. "Blitzen" is a third person limited narrative within the horror and suspense genres. The story centers around a boy named Max who attempts to befriend a wendigo as his peers start to go missing in the woods surrounding his town. "Rats" is an experimental absurdist story that relies on traditional absurdist elements such as dark humor, nihilism, and an irreverence towards reason. It's a third person objective narrative that takes place 200 years after a nuclear apocalypse and centers around two mafia grunts trying to gain control of a rat colony.