

“the lonely and the road” (novel)

“What’s your road, man?”:

**my experiences with the life and work of Jack Kerouac in relation
to the development of “the lonely and the road” (exegesis)**

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This thesis is presented for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

of

Murdoch University

2008

Candidate Declaration

All of this thesis is my own account of my own research, except where other sources are fully acknowledged by footnotes or referencing.

This thesis contains as its main content work which has not previously been submitted for a degree at any university.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

December, 2008

Abstract

Thirty thousand feet above the Pacific Ocean—somewhere between Sydney and Los Angeles—the narrator of “the lonely and the road” doesn’t really know where he is going, or why. His is a quest written spontaneously—‘on-the-go.’ It is a journey of uncertain motivation, of uncertain means, towards uncertain ends. From Los Angeles, to Vegas, to the Rocky Mountain states and beyond, the narrator travels with and learns from his friends, his family and even his ex-girlfriend as he searches for that which continues to elude him. But what is that exactly? Does it even exist?

While the novel details a journey, the exegesis is a phenomenological account of the intersecting of my road with that taken by Jack Kerouac. It explores my experiences with the life and work of Kerouac—the creator of spontaneous prose—in relation to the development of my writing, up to and including this novel. In doing so, the exegesis is itself a quest that seeks to understand more fully the essence of Kerouac’s and my own representation of the quest motif in content and in form. Both the exegesis and the novel, then, constitute part of the search for my own artistic road, and aim to assist others in search of theirs.

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Acknowledgements

I would sincerely like to thank the supervisor of the creative component of my thesis, Dr Simone Lazaroo, for taking time out of her own artistic endeavors to offer me all her support, warmth and most of all, patience. I would also like to thank the supervisor of the exegetical component of my thesis, Dr Anne Surma, for her questions, her suggestions and her ability to focus upon details while still retaining a clear picture of the whole. Thanks also to the many real-life versions of the characters who appear in the novel (and exegesis). For the scholarship I received during this process I am grateful to Murdoch University, the Australian Government and the taxpayers of this country, whom I will rejoin soon enough. To Kerouac—thank you for the gift of your quest upon the endless river of words. To all my family and friends—we weave together. To Horst, Jennifer and Gosia—my teachers, friends and colleagues—you are the twist in my wrist. And finally to Katie, who has endured my ceaseless complaining during this whole process—who has never known me without this PhD—thank you *for everything*. You are an artist of the highest order—a sculptor of that which lives between us as human beings. I dedicate this to you.