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Abstract

Johnny Golightly Comes Home is a nonfiction novel about the writing of two books by Pat Hopkins. In particular it is an account of the author's often troubled interaction with artist John Anthony Boerma, who once took on the persona of Johnny Golightly after reading Truman Capote's *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

It is a story about illusion and fantasy in the creation of a work of conceptual art. As the lies are stripped away, so a new character emerges – that of Johnny Gochristly, the messiah sent to take away the parameters of the world. And in this latter-day passion play the unwitting writer has the role of Judas.

The accompanying reflexive essay reviews the themes as they appear in the book – especially those of epiphany brought on by trauma, which leads to a divine mission often associated with extreme eccentricity. It concludes with a section on the writing process.

Key Words:

John Anthony Boerma

Johnny Golightly

Epiphany

Trauma

Eccentricity

Outsider

Suicide

Helen Martins

Truth

Nukain Mabusa

Declaration

I declare that this creative work and reflexive essay is my own unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Master of Arts by Research in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination in any other university.

Patrick Mark Hopkins

Name

Signature

_____day of November, 2007

For Jabu, Tiffany and Chelsea

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From *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac. Copyright 1955 and 1957. This edition, London, Penguin Books.

From *Breakfast at Tiffany's* by Truman Capote. Copyright 1958. This edition, London, Penguin Books.

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