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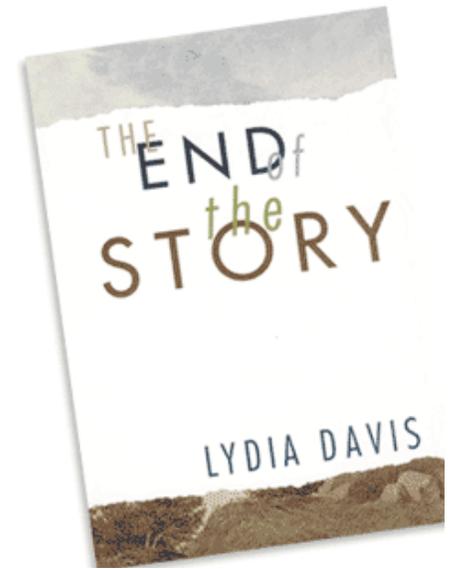
Darnestown, MD

Literary Studies & Creative Writing and Literary Revisions:
Rebecca Fiske & Brendan

My thesis is an exploration of the rereading and revising process—rethinking, in general—as applied to literature, critically as well as creatively. Critically, I will be reading Lydia Davis's *The End of the Story* and writing three interpretations in response. The process will involve a method of closely examining the novel and developing and writing an interpretation, followed by a releasing of attachment to this initial interpretation in order to leave room for seeing, developing, and writing others. I envision that one of the interpretations will rely heavily upon psychoanalytic theory while the other two will be inspired more organically from the novel through close readings. The value here will be in seeing the difference between using a specific theory to look at *The End of the Story* from an already-established lens as opposed to drawing more from the text itself, in addition to my analytic ability to create my own personal multiple and distinct lenses. The methods behind these more organic readings

will be closer to the creative exercise I will undertake.

This creative exercise will consist of writing one short story in three ways, different enough each time such that the second and third stories are not merely obvious takes on the first—that they are all separate stories in their own right. The process will involve writing one polished short story, taking that short story and thinking about different structural, stylistic, and thematic choices that I could have turned to instead, and then turning to those different structural, stylistic, and thematic choices in order to write a number of radical and polished revisions of that initial story. In my experience, many writers in workshops are afraid to make large alterations to stories because they are too attached to their original version and can't imagine it any other way. Through this exercise, I want to show how one story could just as well have been a different story and that you can keep an original version to look back on, even if you



you revamp it; they can both be valid and worthwhile.

As I am concentrating in both literary studies and creative writing and have already considered rereading and revision in both disciplines, it seems rational that I would combine the critical and the creative in this thesis.

