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Unbridled treats *Equus* as a prism through which to reimagine the study of religion, asking urgent questions and inviting us to critically rethink methods as openings. With an inviting mix of confidence and humility, Robert reinvigorates pedagogical discussions, delivering insights about the difference between reverence and devotion, the meaning of critique, and the nature of literature. Every page provokes thoughts about how we teach and think about religion, and how we might do it otherwise.”

Constance M. Furey, coauthor of *Devotion: Three Inquiries in Religion, Literature, and Political Imagination*

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Unbridled is a compelling, engaging, sophisticated provocation for how the study of religion might be done differently. Keeping his eyes fixed on *Equus*, Robert touches on themes central to the study of religion—performance, ritual, embodiment, sacrifice, image, worship, sexuality, violence—while also defamiliarizing the operation of these terms by following what *Equus* prompts us to think about them.”

Kent Brintnall, author of *Ecce Homo: The Male-Body-in-Pain as Redemptive Figure*

With verve and erudition, William Robert uses *Equus*, Peter Shaffer’s enigmatic play about a boy passionately devoted to horses, to think differently about religion. For several years, Robert has used *Equus* to introduce students to the study of religion, provoking them to conceive of religion in unfamiliar, even uncomfortable ways. In *Unbridled*, he invites readers to do the same.

A work like *Equus* tangles together text, performance, practice, embodiment, and reception. Studying a play involves playing different roles, and those roles, as well as the imaginative work they require, are critical to the study of religion. By approaching *Equus* with the reader, turning the play around and upside down, *Unbridled* transforms standard approaches to the study of religion. Robert provocatively engages with themes of ritual, sacrifice, worship, power, desire, violence, and sexuality, as well as thinkers including Judith Butler, Sigmund Freud, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Jonathan Z. Smith. As *Unbridled* shows, the way themes and theories play out in *Equus* challenges us to reimagine the study of religion through open questions, contrasting perspectives, and alternative modes of interpretation and appreciation.

William Robert is associate professor of religion and director of LGBTQ studies at Syracuse University. He is the author of *Revivals: Of Antigone and Trials: Of Antigone and Jesus*.

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