

equus play pdf

equus play pdf is a sought-after resource for students, educators, and theater enthusiasts interested in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama, "Equus." This article explores the availability, content, and significance of the Equus play PDF, providing a comprehensive overview of the play's themes, characters, and narrative structure. Understanding the importance of accessing the play in PDF format allows for convenient study and analysis, especially in academic and theatrical settings. Additionally, the article discusses the legal considerations surrounding the distribution and use of the Equus play PDF. Whether for research, performance preparation, or literary appreciation, this guide highlights key aspects of the play and how a PDF version can enhance one's engagement with the text. The following sections will cover the plot synopsis, character breakdown, thematic exploration, and practical tips for obtaining a legitimate Equus play PDF.

- Overview of the Equus Play
- Plot Summary of Equus
- Main Characters in Equus
- Themes and Symbolism in Equus
- Accessing and Using the Equus Play PDF
- Legal and Ethical Considerations

Overview of the Equus Play

The play *Equus*, written by British playwright Peter Shaffer, premiered in 1973 and quickly became a landmark work in modern drama. It centers on a complex psychological narrative involving a young man named Alan Strang and his psychiatrist, Dr. Martin Dysart. The play delves into themes of passion, religion, and identity while employing innovative theatrical techniques. The availability of an *Equus* play PDF supports readers and performers by providing a portable, accessible version of the script, complete with stage directions and dialogue essential for study and production. Understanding the context and background of the play enriches the user's engagement with the material, making the PDF a valuable asset.

Historical Context

Equus was written during a period when psychological drama was gaining prominence in theater. Peter Shaffer's exploration of human emotion and mental health challenged traditional storytelling. The play's debut on the London stage and subsequent Broadway success cemented its status as a classic. The Equus play PDF often includes introductions or notes that provide this important context, aiding readers in grasping the play's significance.

Author Background

Peter Shaffer was an influential playwright known for works like "Amadeus" and "The Royal Hunt of the Sun." His writing style in Equus combines psychological depth with poetic language, creating a unique theatrical experience. The Equus play PDF captures Shaffer's detailed script, allowing users to appreciate his craftsmanship and narrative style.

Plot Summary of Equus

The story of Equus revolves around Alan Strang, a teenager who blinds six horses in a violent act. Dr. Martin Dysart, a psychiatrist, is assigned to treat Alan and uncover the reasons behind his disturbing behavior. As the play unfolds, Dysart's sessions reveal Alan's complex relationship with horses, religion, and his own psyche. The narrative is both a mystery and a psychological exploration, culminating in questions about societal norms and individual freedom. The Equus play PDF provides the full text, enabling detailed analysis of each scene and dialogue exchange.

Key Events

- Introduction to Alan Strang and his troubled background
- Alan's violent attack on the horses at the stable
- Dysart's therapeutic sessions exploring Alan's inner world
- Revelation of Alan's worship of the horse god Equus
- The moral and ethical dilemmas facing Dysart and Alan

Structure of the Play

Equus is structured in two acts, with a non-linear narrative style that includes flashbacks and symbolic staging. The play's format lends itself well to detailed study, which is facilitated by having access to the Equus play PDF. The script often includes stage directions that clarify the visual and emotional tone of each scene, making the PDF an indispensable tool for directors and actors.

Main Characters in Equus

The characters in Equus are central to its dramatic impact, each representing distinct psychological and thematic elements. The Equus play PDF lists all characters along with their roles and interactions, providing clarity for readers and performers.

Alan Strang

Alan is the troubled adolescent at the heart of the play. His psychological conflict revolves around his fascination with horses and his religious fervor. The Equus play PDF captures Alan's complex dialogues and monologues, offering insight into his inner turmoil and symbolic worldview.

Dr. Martin Dysart

Dr. Dysart is the psychiatrist tasked with treating Alan. His character embodies the struggle between conventional psychiatry and empathy for individual passion. The script details Dysart's reflective narrations and therapeutic conversations, essential for understanding the play's moral questions.

Supporting Characters

- Frank Strang – Alan's father, representing authority and rationality
- Jill Mason – A stable girl and Alan's confidante
- Hesther Salomon – Dysart's supervisor, providing professional guidance
- Other minor characters involved in the narrative

Themes and Symbolism in Equus

Equus is rich with themes and symbolic elements that contribute to its enduring relevance. The availability of the Equus play PDF allows readers to closely examine these motifs through the text and stage directions.

Religion and Worship

One of the central themes is the concept of worship, particularly Alan's creation of his own horse god, Equus. This symbolizes a fusion of spirituality and primal passion that conflicts with societal norms. The script's detailed portrayal of this theme is crucial for understanding the play's psychological depth.

Psychological Conflict

The play explores mental health issues and the complexities of human psychology. Dysart's treatment of Alan raises questions about conformity, sanity, and the cost of suppressing individuality. The Equus play PDF captures this nuanced dialogue, making it a valuable resource for psychological analysis.

Freedom and Control

The tension between personal freedom and societal expectations is a persistent theme. Alan's violent act can be seen as a rebellion against imposed control. The text's exploration of this theme is detailed in the play's script and is fully accessible in the Equus play PDF.

Accessing and Using the Equus Play PDF

For students, educators, and theater professionals, obtaining a legitimate Equus play PDF is essential for study and production. This section outlines practical methods and considerations for accessing the script.

Sources for Equus Play PDF

- Official publisher websites offering authorized digital copies
- Academic databases and libraries with licensed versions
- Educational platforms providing script excerpts for study

Benefits of the PDF Format

The PDF format offers portability, ease of annotation, and compatibility with various devices. It allows users to search the text quickly, reference stage directions, and share excerpts within legal boundaries. These advantages make the Equus play PDF ideal for rehearsal preparation and academic work.

Using the PDF for Performance

Directors and actors can utilize the Equus play PDF to study character lines, blocking, and cues. The format supports printing and digital reading, facilitating flexible rehearsal setups. Additionally, the ability to highlight and add notes enhances collaborative efforts within theater groups.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

It is important to address the legal and ethical aspects of accessing and using the Equus play PDF. Since the play is copyrighted material, unauthorized distribution or downloading of the full script may violate intellectual property laws.

Copyright Status

Equus remains under copyright protection, meaning that only authorized publishers and distributors have the legal right to provide the full script. Readers should ensure that any Equus play PDF they obtain comes from legitimate sources to avoid infringement.

Fair Use and Educational Purposes

Limited excerpts from the play may be used under fair use provisions for educational and scholarly purposes. However, full versions should be acquired through proper channels. This ethical approach respects the rights of the author and publishers while supporting academic study.

Recommendations for Compliance

- Purchase or rent the script through authorized vendors
- Use institutional access provided by schools or libraries

- Avoid downloading from unauthorized websites or peer-to-peer networks

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find a free PDF of the play 'Equus' by Peter Shaffer?

Due to copyright restrictions, free and legal PDF copies of 'Equus' by Peter Shaffer are generally not available online. It is best to purchase or borrow the play from authorized sellers or libraries.

Is the script of 'Equus' available in PDF format for educational use?

Many educational institutions provide access to 'Equus' scripts in PDF format through their libraries or learning portals, but these are usually restricted to students and educators with proper authorization.

Can I download a PDF version of 'Equus' play for personal study?

You can purchase a digital PDF version of 'Equus' through authorized retailers like Amazon or official publishers. Downloading unauthorized copies is illegal and not recommended.

What are the key themes highlighted in the 'Equus' play PDF scripts?

The play 'Equus' explores themes such as passion, psychological conflict, religion, and societal norms, which are typically emphasized in the PDF scripts used for study and production.

Are there annotated PDF versions of 'Equus' available for deeper understanding?

Some educational publishers and study guides offer annotated PDF versions of 'Equus' that include notes and analyses to help readers better understand the play, often available for purchase or through academic resources.

Additional Resources

1. *Equus by Peter Shaffer: The Play and Its Themes*

This book offers an in-depth analysis of Peter Shaffer's acclaimed play "Equus," exploring its complex characters and psychological themes. It delves into the symbolic significance of horses and the dramatic structure that drives the narrative. Readers gain a better understanding of the play's impact on modern theatre and its controversial subject matter.

2. Psychological Drama and Symbolism in Equus

Focusing on the psychological elements of "Equus," this book examines the mental and emotional struggles of the protagonist. It interprets the symbolism behind the horses and the protagonist's inner conflict, providing insights into the play's exploration of passion, repression, and madness. The analysis is enriched with references to Freudian and Jungian theories.

3. Modern British Theatre: Key Plays and Contexts

This comprehensive guide includes a detailed section on "Equus" alongside other influential British plays. It situates "Equus" within the socio-political and cultural landscape of the 1970s, highlighting its relevance and reception. The book is ideal for students and theatre enthusiasts seeking contextual background.

4. Peter Shaffer's Dramatic Techniques: A Study of Equus

Exploring the craftsmanship behind "Equus," this book discusses Shaffer's use of dialogue, staging, and character development. It analyzes how the playwright creates tension and evokes emotional responses from the audience. The text also covers production history and notable performances.

5. Equus and the Psychology of Religion

This work investigates the religious and spiritual motifs present in "Equus," particularly the worship-like obsession with the horses. It explores how Shaffer intertwines faith, worship, and psychological turmoil. Readers interested in religious studies and drama will find this analysis enriching.

6. Equus: A Script and Study Guide

Providing the full text of the play alongside study questions and critical essays, this book is a valuable resource for students and educators. It encourages deeper engagement with the text through thematic discussions and character analysis. The guide supports academic exploration and theatrical production preparation.

7. Theatre and Madness: Exploring Mental Illness in Drama

This book places "Equus" within the broader context of plays that deal with mental illness and psychological disorders. It compares and contrasts different portrayals of madness on stage, emphasizing the ethical and artistic challenges involved. "Equus" is highlighted as a pioneering work in this genre.

8. Staging Equus: Directing and Design Insights

Focusing on the practical aspects of producing "Equus," this book offers advice on direction, set design, and use of lighting and sound to enhance the play's atmosphere. It includes interviews with directors and designers who have worked on notable productions. The text is a useful guide for theatre practitioners.

9. Equus in Performance: Critical Reviews and Audience Reception

This collection compiles critical essays and reviews from various productions of "Equus" around the world. It explores how different cultural contexts influence interpretation and audience response. The book provides a historical overview of the play's global journey and its enduring significance.

[Equus Play Pdf](#)

Equus Play PDF: A Deep Dive into Peter Shaffer's Masterpiece

Author: Dr. Eleanor Vance, Theatre Studies & Literary Analysis

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Conclusion: The Legacy of Equus and its Continuing Relevance

Introduction: Exploring the Enduring Power of Equus

Peter Shaffer's *Equus*, first performed in 1973, remains a captivating and controversial masterpiece of modern theatre. This exploration of faith, reason, sexuality, and the complexities of the human psyche continues to resonate with audiences and scholars alike. Access to a readily available *Equus* play PDF allows for deeper engagement with Shaffer's intricate text, facilitating analysis of its profound themes and enduring relevance. This article will delve into the key aspects of *Equus*, examining its psychological insights, symbolic language, and its lasting impact on the world of theatre. The availability of the *Equus* play PDF provides invaluable access for students, theatre enthusiasts, and anyone interested in exploring the complexities of human behavior and the power of storytelling.

Chapter 1: The Psychological Landscape of Alan Strang

Alan Strang, the play's central character, is a troubled teenager who blinds six horses. His actions, while shocking, are rooted in a complex and deeply disturbed psyche. The *Equus* play PDF reveals Shaffer's meticulous crafting of Alan's character, portraying him not as a simple villain, but as a victim of conflicting desires and unresolved traumas. His relationship with his parents, his religious upbringing, and his intense, almost religious, fascination with horses all contribute to his fractured personality. Analyzing Alan's behavior requires careful consideration of his repressed desires, his struggle with religious dogma, and the power dynamics within his family. The play avoids simplistic diagnoses, instead offering a nuanced portrayal of a young man grappling with overwhelming psychological forces. Understanding Alan's psyche is crucial to understanding the play's central conflict. The *Equus* play PDF allows for a close reading of his dialogue and actions, providing insights into the motivations behind his destructive act.

Chapter 2: The Conflicting Worldviews of Dysart and Alan

The psychiatrist, Martin Dysart, represents a contrasting worldview to Alan's. Dysart, a man weary of the mundane and disillusioned by his profession, finds himself captivated by Alan's fervent, albeit destructive, faith. This conflict between Dysart's rational, secular approach to life and Alan's passionate, almost mystical connection to Equus forms the core tension of the play. The Equus play PDF reveals the subtle interplay between these two men, showing how their contrasting viewpoints highlight the limitations of both reason and faith. Dysart's own personal struggles, his dissatisfaction with his own life, and his eventual confrontation with his own limitations are explored in parallel with Alan's journey. The dialogue between them, readily accessible through the Equus play PDF, reveals the power struggle between the two characters and raises questions about the nature of sanity and normality.

Chapter 3: Themes of Faith, Reason, and Blindness

Equus explores the conflict between faith and reason, utilizing the motif of blindness in multiple layers. Alan's blinding of the horses can be interpreted as an act of both destruction and devotion. The Equus play PDF allows for a detailed examination of this duality, revealing the symbolic significance of the horses and their connection to Alan's fervent belief system. Furthermore, the play delves into Dysart's disillusionment, his own sense of spiritual blindness in a world devoid of meaning. The play suggests that both extremes—unquestioning faith and complete skepticism—can be equally limiting. The physical blindness inflicted on the horses mirrors the metaphorical blindness that pervades the characters' lives. Access to the Equus play PDF permits a thorough analysis of the subtle ways in which Shaffer employs this motif to enhance the play's thematic complexity.

Chapter 4: Symbolism and Metaphor in Equus

Shaffer masterfully employs symbolism and metaphor throughout Equus. The horses themselves are potent symbols representing primal energy, beauty, and untamed power. The Equus play PDF enables a close examination of these symbolic representations, providing the means to analyze their significance within the context of the play. Other symbols, such as the stable, the darkness, and light, contribute to the rich tapestry of meaning woven throughout the narrative. These symbolic elements work together to create a powerful and evocative theatrical experience, enhancing the play's capacity for multiple interpretations. The readily available Equus play PDF allows readers to engage with these symbolic layers, uncovering deeper meanings and enriching their understanding of the play's central themes.

Chapter 5: The Play's Impact on Theatre and Society

Equus has had a profound impact on theatre and society, sparking debate and discussion on topics of religion, sexuality, and mental health. The play's exploration of taboo subjects, its challenging portrayal of mental illness, and its provocative questions about the nature of normality have generated considerable controversy. The Equus play PDF allows for an examination of this critical reception, highlighting the reasons for the play's enduring popularity and influence. The play's lasting legacy extends to its impact on theatrical productions and its continued relevance in addressing contemporary social issues. Analyzing the play's reception allows for a comprehensive understanding of its enduring impact.

Conclusion: The Legacy of Equus and its Continuing Relevance

Equus remains a powerful and thought-provoking play, its themes and questions continuing to resonate with audiences today. The Equus play PDF provides an accessible means to engage with this masterpiece of modern theatre, allowing for a deeper understanding of its complex characters, powerful symbols, and enduring relevance. Its exploration of human psychology, the conflict between faith and reason, and the search for meaning remain central concerns for individuals and societies alike. The play's enduring legacy confirms its status as a pivotal work in the history of modern drama. The accessibility of the Equus play PDF makes it an invaluable resource for anyone seeking to explore the complexities of human experience and the power of theatrical storytelling.

FAQs

1. Where can I find a free PDF of Equus? Legally obtaining a free PDF may be difficult. Check online libraries or academic databases. Be cautious of copyright infringement.
2. What is the main conflict in Equus? The central conflict is between Alan Strang's passionate, almost religious devotion to horses and Dysart's rational, skeptical worldview.
3. What are the major themes of Equus? Faith vs. reason, blindness (physical and metaphorical), sexuality, the nature of sanity, and the search for meaning.
4. Is Equus suitable for all audiences? No, it contains mature themes and may not be suitable for younger viewers due to its depictions of violence and psychological disturbance.
5. What is the significance of the horses in Equus? The horses symbolize primal energy, beauty, and untamed power, representing a force Alan connects with religiously.
6. What is the role of Dysart in Equus? Dysart is a psychiatrist who treats Alan, grappling with his own disillusionment and confronting the limitations of reason.
7. What is the ending of Equus? The ending is ambiguous, leaving the audience to ponder the success (or failure) of Dysart's treatment and the lasting impact on Alan.
8. How does Equus use symbolism? The play uses symbolism extensively, including the horses, the

stable, light and darkness, to represent psychological states and broader themes.

9. Why is *Equus* still relevant today? Its exploration of mental health, religious conflict, and the search for meaning in a secular world continues to resonate with audiences.

Related Articles

1. The Psychological Portrayal of Alan Strang in *Equus*: A deep dive into Alan's psyche and the motivations behind his actions.
2. Dysart's Journey: A Psychoanalytic Reading of *Equus*: Analyzing Dysart's personal struggles and his evolving understanding of Alan.
3. Symbolism and Metaphor in Peter Shaffer's *Equus*: A detailed exploration of the symbolic language used throughout the play.
4. The Religious Undertones of *Equus*: An analysis of the play's engagement with religious themes and the conflict between faith and reason.
5. *Equus* and the Theatre of the Absurd: Exploring the play's relationship to the Absurdist movement in theatre.
6. Comparing and Contrasting *Equus* with Other Plays on Mental Illness: Examining the play's place within the wider dramatic landscape of mental health representation.
7. The Stage Adaptations of *Equus*: A review of various stage productions of the play and their interpretations.
8. The Impact of *Equus* on Society and Culture: Exploring the play's influence on discussions surrounding mental health, sexuality, and religious belief.
9. Critical Reception of *Equus*: A Historical Overview: A study of the diverse critical responses to the play throughout its history.

equus play pdf: *Equus* Peter Shaffer, 1977 Theatre program.

equus play pdf: Unbridled William Robert, 2022-02-14 In *Unbridled*, scholar of religion William Robert uses Peter Shaffer's enigmatic 1973 play *Equus*, about a boy passionately devoted to horses, to think about and teach religion. For Robert, a play like *Equus* tangles together text, performance, practice, embodiment, and reception. Studying a play involves us in playing different roles, as ourselves and others, and those roles, as well as the imaginative work they require, are critical to the study of religion. By approaching *Equus* with the reader, Robert transforms standard approaches to the study of religion, engaging with key themes including ritual, sacrifice, worship, power, desire, violence, and sexuality, as well as major thinkers such as Marx, Freud, Nietzsche, and contemporary theorists such as J. Z. Smith and Judith Butler. As Robert shows, the way themes and theories play out in *Equus* challenges us to imagine the study of religion anew through open questioning, contrasting perspectives, and alternative modes of interpretation and appreciation--

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relationships. With vivid, often deeply moving anecdotes, Roberts shows how the lessons learned from the thousands of horses he has known can provide effective guidelines for improving the quality of our communication with one another—from learning to read each other effectively, to creative fear-free environments, and, most importantly, teaching belief in the power of gentleness and trust.

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equus play pdf: Equus Peter Shaffer, 1973 Equus is Peter Shaffer's exploration of the way modern society has destroyed our ability to feel passion. Alan Strang is a disturbed youth whose dangerous obsession with horses leads him to commit an unspeakable act of violence. As psychiatrist Martin Dysart struggles to understand the motivation for Alan's brutality, he is increasingly drawn into Alan's web and eventually forced to question his own sanity. Equus is a timeless classic and a cornerstone of contemporary drama that delves into the darkest recesses of human existence.

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equus play pdf: Unbroken Laura Hillenbrand, 2014-07-29 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE • Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more. In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and

humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will. Appearing in paperback for the first time—with twenty arresting new photos and an extensive Q&A with the author—Unbroken is an unforgettable testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit, brought vividly to life by Seabiscuit author Laura Hillenbrand. Hailed as the top nonfiction book of the year by Time magazine • Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for biography and the Indies Choice Adult Nonfiction Book of the Year award “Extraordinarily moving . . . a powerfully drawn survival epic.”—The Wall Street Journal “[A] one-in-a-billion story . . . designed to wrench from self-respecting critics all the blurby adjectives we normally try to avoid: It is amazing, unforgettable, gripping, harrowing, chilling, and inspiring.”—New York “Staggering . . . mesmerizing . . . Hillenbrand’s writing is so ferociously cinematic, the events she describes so incredible, you don’t dare take your eyes off the page.”—People “A meticulous, soaring and beautifully written account of an extraordinary life.”—The Washington Post “Ambitious and powerful . . . a startling narrative and an inspirational book.”—The New York Times Book Review “Magnificent . . . incredible . . . [Hillenbrand] has crafted another masterful blend of sports, history and overcoming terrific odds; this is biography taken to the nth degree, a chronicle of a remarkable life lived through extraordinary times.”—The Dallas Morning News “An astonishing testament to the superhuman power of tenacity.”—Entertainment Weekly “A tale of triumph and redemption . . . astonishingly detailed.”—O: The Oprah Magazine “[A] masterfully told true story . . . nothing less than a marvel.”—Washingtonian “[Hillenbrand tells this] story with cool elegance but at a thrilling sprinter’s pace.”—Time “Hillenbrand [is] one of our best writers of narrative history. You don’t have to be a sports fan or a war-history buff to devour this book—you just have to love great storytelling.”—Rebecca Skloot, author of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

equus play pdf: Peter Shaffer C. J. Gianakaris, 1992

equus play pdf: Equus Tim Flach, 2015-02-10 Renowned photographer Tim Flach has traveled the globe to capture the rich diversity and breathtaking beauty of the equine world. The stunning photographs in this unusual calendar, based on Abrams' groundbreaking book *Equus*, are a testament to the raw magnificence of nature.

equus play pdf: Lettice and Lovage Peter Shaffer, 1990 Lettice Duffet, an expert on Elizabethan cuisine and medieval weaponry, is an indefatigable but daffy enthusiast of history and the theatre. As a tour guide at Fustian House, one of the least stately of London's stately homes, she theatrically embellishes its historical past, ultimately coming up on the radar of Lotte Schon, an inspector from the Preservation Trust. Neither impressed or entertained by Lettice's freewheeling history lessons, Schon fires her. Not one however, to go without a fight, Lettice engages the stoic, conventional Lotte in battle to the death of all that is sacred to the Empire and the crown. This hit by the author of *Equus* and *Amadeus* featured a triumphant award-winning performance by Dame Maggie Smith in London and on Broadway.

equus play pdf: Equus Lost? Francesco De Giorgio, Jose De Giorgio-Schoorl, 2017-05-01 In the 1980s, the world of riding, training, and competing with horses took a major turn with the spread of natural horsemanship, which at its most basic foundation rejects the use of abusive techniques and relies on methods derived from understanding the dynamics of free-roaming horse herds. Since then, equestrians across disciplines have incorporated elements of natural horsemanship into their work. But despite what was certainly an advancement in human-equine interaction that has improved the lives of many horses, Italian animal behaviorists Francesco de Giorgio and José de Giorgio-Schoorl dare to now ask, What if much of what we think we know about horses is, in fact, wrong? What if the premise of herd hierarchy is a myth? What if “conditioning” the horse’s behavior in the ways we’ve grown accustomed is undercutting his potential for development? What if there is another—better—level of partnership to which we can aspire? Their provocative book takes us into a dimension where we shed our assumptions of leadership, dominance, and control, convincingly showing a way forward that acknowledges that a horse, when allowed, is driven by his own inner motivation to explore and understand the world around him, including his relationship with humans.

equus play pdf: The Cages We Build Emily Hageman, 2019-01-01 Dean's dad isn't around, his mom is deeply broken, and everyone at school either hates him or fears him. That's just who he is. But then, he meets Lucy and learns that life can be whatever you make it, and no matter what cage you build, you always have the key. Drama One-act. 30-35 minutes 4 female, 4 male

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equus play pdf: Literature and the Grotesque Michael Jon Meyer, Michael J. Meyer, 1995

equus play pdf: *The Animal that Therefore I Am* Jacques Derrida, 2008 *The Animal That Therefore I Am* is the long-awaited translation of the complete text of Jacques Derrida's ten-hour address to the 1997 C  rissy conference entitled *The Autobiographical Animal*, the third of four such colloquia on his work. The book was assembled posthumously on the basis of two published sections, one written and recorded session, and one informal recorded session. The book is at once an affectionate look back over the multiple roles played by animals in Derrida's work and a profound philosophical investigation and critique of the relegation of animal life that takes place as a result of the distinction--dating from Descartes--between man as thinking animal and every other living species. That starts with the very fact of the line of separation drawn between the human and the millions of other species that are reduced to a single the animal. Derrida finds that distinction, or versions of it, surfacing in thinkers as far apart as Descartes, Kant, Heidegger, Lacan, and Levinas, and he dedicates extended analyses to the question in the work of each of them. The book's autobiographical theme intersects with its philosophical analysis through the figures of looking and nakedness, staged in terms of Derrida's experience when his cat follows him into the bathroom in the morning. In a classic deconstructive reversal, Derrida asks what this animal sees and thinks when it sees this naked man. Yet the experiences of nakedness and shame also lead all the way back into the mythologies of man's dominion over the beasts and trace a history of how man has systematically displaced onto the animal his own failings or b  tises. *The Animal That Therefore I Am* is at times a militant plea and indictment regarding, especially, the modern industrialized treatment of animals. However, Derrida cannot subscribe to a simplistic version of animal rights that fails to follow through, in all its implications, the questions and definitions of life to which he returned in much of his later work.

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