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CHASTITY IN EARLY STUART LITERATURE AND CULTURE

In this book, Bonnie Lander Johnson explores early modern ideas about chastity. Drawing on a range of materials, from prose to theatre, moral controversy to legal trials, and court ceremonies – including royal birthing rituals – Lander Johnson demonstrates how crucial chastity was in the early Stuart decades. She argues that the virtue informed political, theological, and medical debates, and governed the construction of different literary genres. The book reveals that theatrical and court ceremonies were part of the same political debate as prose pamphlets and religious sermons. It offers new readings of Milton's *Comus*, Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, Henrietta Maria's queenship and John Ford's plays and will appeal to scholars of early modern literature, theatre, political, medical and cultural history, and gender studies.

BONNIE LANDER JOHNSON is Fellow and Lecturer at Selwyn College, Cambridge. She has published articles in journals, including *Bulletin of the Society of Renaissance Studies*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, and *Parergon: Journal of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies*.

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Acknowledgements

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