

# Earnest Exuberance in Chaucer's Poetics: Textual Games in the Canterbury Tales

Wolfgang E. H. Rudat  
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**Wolfgang E. H. Rudat : Earnest Exuberance in Chaucer's Poetics: Textual Games in the Canterbury Tales** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Earnest Exuberance in Chaucer's Poetics: Textual Games in the Canterbury Tales:

This study aims to provide a closer reading of Chaucer's text than has been previously attempted. The emphasis is on the palimpsestic nature of Chaucer's work, providing something largely missing in Chaucer scholarship, a concern with the intertextuality between different parts of the Tales. It argues for organic unity, and attempts to settle several questions such as: the extent of sentence (that is, morally-religiously redeeming elements) in the fabliaux of the Miller's and the Merchant's Tales; the question of the Pardoner's sexual nature; the question of anti-Semitism in the Prioress' Tale; and how Chaucer felt about the doctrines as well as the practices of the Church, especially with regard to gender issues. It also examines Chaucer's ironic use of gender-crossing and literary allusion.