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| Sommario/riassunto | What is the worldview of 16th century academic physicians, steeped in a tradition of medicine that dates back to antiquity? How does this vision relate to the episteme of similitude, specific to Michel Foucault during the Renaissance? This book sets out to answer these questions by illuminating the medical concepts of nature, man, health, and disease; by examining the logic of physicians, and their quasi-judicial reports on unusual cases ("mirabilia") likely to cause public scandal; finally, by studying their doctrine of signs. For them, universal and human nature is protean and unstable; in order to analyze it, they use |

logical instruments whose fundamental imprecision they recognize. Struggling with the signs that surround them - bodily symptoms, numbers from the great book of nature, weather clues, signatures, physiognomic signs - they develop a sophisticated semiology. This study reveals the finesse of these minds, their judgment for the most part circumspect, their flexible logic, a whole set of mental instruments which allow them to understand as best they can the functioning of the world and of the people of their time; an image of the mental activity of this period which contrasts with that of Foucault.
