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Autore	Yearling Rebecca
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Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: -- Acknowledgements -- A Note on Editions -- Introduction: Why does Marston Matter? -- Prologue: The Problem of the Audience -- 1. The Playwrights and the Audience -- 2. Dramatic Satire and the Crisis of Authority -- 3. John Marston: Provoking the Audience -- 4. Jonson and Marston: 'I write just in thy vein, I' -- Conclusion -- Appendix: The Boy Actors: The Question of Intent -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	This book examines the influence of John Marston, typically seen as a minor figure among early modern dramatists, on his colleague Ben Jonson. While Marston is usually famed more for his very public rivalry with Jonson than for the quality of his plays, this book argues that such a view of Marston seriously underestimates his importance to the theatre of his time. In it, the author contends that Marston's plays

represent an experiment in a new kind of satiric drama, with origins in the humanist tradition of *serio ludere*. His works—deliberately unpredictable, inconsistent and metatheatrical—subvert theatrical conventions and provide confusingly multiple perspectives on the action, forcing their spectators to engage actively with the drama and the moral dilemmas that it presents. The book argues that Marston's work thus anticipates and perhaps influenced the mid-period work of Ben Jonson, in plays such as *Sejanus*, *Volpone* and *The Alchemist*.

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