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Nota di contenuto	Ch. 1. The paradox of service and freedom -- Ch. 2. The hop and the pole : the limits of materialism -- Ch. 3. "Surprising confrontations" : discourses of service in The taming of the shrew -- Ch. 4. "Monsieur, we are not lettered" : classical influences and the early modern marketplace -- Ch. 5. "Clubs, bills, and partisans" : retainer violence and male bonding -- Ch. 6. Fidelis Servus...: good service and the obligations of obedience -- Ch. 7. ...Perpetuus Asinus : bad service and the primacy of the will -- Ch. 8. "A place in the story" : gender, commodity, alienation, and service -- Ch. 9. "As willing as bondage e'er of freedom" : the vindication of willing service in The tempest.
Sommario/riassunto	One way and another, nearly all of Shakespeare's countrymen and women (including the playwright himself) spent at least parts of their lives as servants of someone else. But until now that fact has gone largely unregarded. This book remedies the oversight, by showing how the ideals and practices of early modern service affect dozens of

characters in almost all the plays, in ways that enrich our understanding of familiar figures like Iago and Falstaff and enhance the significance of lesser-known people and events across the canon. And it introduces an important concept, volitional primacy, into contemporary critical discourse.

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