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Autore	Schneider Brian W.
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction : Matters of viewpoint -- Matters of definition -- 'Prologus' to prologue in classical drama -- Epilogue origins and medieval framing texts -- 'Sit, see and hear' : prologues, epilogues and the dichotomised audience -- 'Ladies, take your places' : prologues, epilogues and the female spectator -- The framing text, matters of custom -- Conclusion : Identifying the framing text.
Sommario/riassunto	Though individual prologues and epilogues have been treated in depth, very little scholarship has been published on early modern framing texts as a whole. Combining original analysis with carefully compiled, comprehensive reference data, the author fills a gap in the literature by examining the origins of these texts and investigating their growing importance and influence in the theatre of the period.