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Autore	Firey Abigail
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material / A. Firey -- Introduction / A. Firey -- Chapter One. The Protection Of Privacy: Secrets And Silence / A. Firey -- Chapter Two. The Public Welfare: Pollution And Purgation / A. Firey -- Chapter Three. Authority And Piety / A. Firey -- Chapter Four. Empire And Education / A. Firey -- Chapter Five. Contestation, Co-Operation, Coercion, And Resistance / A. Firey -- Appendix A. Penitential Canons Pertaining To Dietary Pollution / A. Firey -- Bibliography / A. Firey -- Index Locorum / A. Firey -- Index Personarum / A. Firey -- Index Rerum / A. Firey -- Index Scripturarum / A. Firey.
Sommario/riassunto	Between the middle of the eighth century and the late ninth century in western Europe, the course of legal history was shaped by interaction with religious ideas, especially with regard to the meaning of confession, suffering, and the balance of protections for an accused individual and the welfare of the community. This book traces those themes through a selection of Carolingian texts, such as archbishop Hincmar's legal analysis of a royal divorce, the decrees of church councils, the biography of a Saxon holy woman, anti-Judaic treatises, and Hrotswitha's dramatisation of the legend of Thaïs, in order to make audible the lively debates over the boundaries of clerical and lay

authority, the nature and extent of permissible intervention in the spiritual condition of the empire's inhabitants, and distinctions between the private and public domains. This work thus reveals the profound relation between law and penitential ideologies promoted by the Carolingian imperial court.
