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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgements -- 1. Fortissimi martyres: The Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis as a pre-text -- 2. Nova documenta fidei: The Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis and its innovative features -- 3. From exemplum fidei to admirandum, non imitandum: The Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis and its later interpreters -- Conclusion -- A chronological outline of the reception of the Passio Perpetuae until the end of the 5th century -- A list of abbreviations of the books, journals and book series used -- Bibliography -- General index -- Index locorum -- Index of modern names
Sommario/riassunto	While concentrated on the famous Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis, this book focuses on an area that has so far been somewhat marginalized or even overlooked by modern interpreters: the recontextualizing of the Passio Perpetuae in the subsequent reception of this text in the literature of the early Church. Since its composition in the early decades of the 3rd century, the Passio Perpetuae was enjoying an extraordinary authority and popularity. However, it contained a number of revolutionary and innovative features that were in conflict with existing

social and theological conventions. This book analyses all relevant texts from the 3rd to 5th centuries in which Perpetua and her comrades are mentioned, and demonstrates the ways in which these texts strive to normalize the innovative aspects of the *Passio Perpetuae*. These efforts, visible as they are already on careful examination of the passages of the editor of the *passio*, continue from Tertullian to Augustine and his followers. The normalization of the narrative reaches its peak in the so-called *Acta Perpetuae* which represent a radical rewriting of the original and an attempt to replace it by a purified text, more compliant with the changed socio-theological hierarchies.
