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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Editors' Preface and Acknowledgements -- Contents -- Introduction -- Myth and the Novel: Introductory Remarks and Comments on the Roundtable Discussion -- Myth in the Novel: Some Observations -- The Literary Myth in the Novel -- Myths in the Novel: Gender, Violence and Power -- Novel and Mythology -- Contribution to a Round Table -- Greek Novel and Local Myth -- Mythical Repertoire and Its Functions in Apuleius' <i>Metamorphoses</i> -- Love, Mysteries and Literary Tradition: New Experiences and Old Frames -- The Tale of a Dream: Oneiros and Mythos in the Greek Novel -- From Mystery to Initiation: A Mytho-Ritual Poetics of Love and Sex in the Ancient Novel -- even in Apuleius' <i>Golden Ass</i> ? -- From the Legend of Cupid and Psyche to the Novel of Mélusine: Myth, Novel and Twentieth Century Adaptations -- <i>Puella Virgo</i> : Rites of Passage in Apuleius' <i>Metamorphoses</i> -- Gnostic Variations on the Tale of Cupid and Psyche -- Apuleius and Christianity: The Novelist-Philosopher in front of a New Religion -- Donkey Gone to Hell: A Katabasis Motif in Apuleius' <i>Metamorphoses</i> -- Iphigenia Revisited: Heliodorus' <i>Aethiopica</i> and the 'Der Tod und das Mädchen' Pattern -- 'Non humana viscera sed centies

sestertium comesse' (Petr. Sat. 141,7): Philomela and the Cannibal Heredipetae in the Crotonian Section of Petronius' Satyricon -- False Fortuna: Religious Imagery and the Painting-Gallery Episode in the Satyricon -- The Bees of Artemis Ephesia and the Apocalyptic Scene in Joseph and Aseneth -- Shamans and Charlatans: Magic, Mixups, Literary Memory in Apuleius' Golden Ass Book 3 -- Lucius's Rose: Symbolic or Sympathetic Cure? -- General Index -- Index locorum -- About the Authors

Sommario/riassunto

Representation of myth in the novel, as a poetic, narrative and aesthetic device, is one of the most illuminating issues in the area of ancient religion, for such narratives investigate in various ways fundamental problems that concern all human beings. This volume brings together twenty contributions (six of them to a Roundtable organized by Anton Bierl on myth), originally presented at the Fourth International Conference on the Ancient novel (ICAN IV) held in Lisbon in July 2008. Employing an interdisciplinary approach and putting together different methodological tools (intertextual, psychological, and anthropological), each offers a illuminating investigation of mythical discourse as presented in the text or texts under discussion. The collection as a whole demonstrates the exemplary and transgressive significance of myth and its metaphorical meaning in a genre that to some extent can be considered a modernized and secular form of myth that focuses on the quintessential question of love.