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Sommario/riassunto	This book argues that the theory of force elaborated in Immanuel Kant's aesthetics is of decisive importance to poetry in the 19th century and to the connection between poetry and philosophy over the last two centuries. Inspired by his deep engagement with the critical theory of Walter Benjamin, who especially developed this Kantian strain of thinking, Kevin McLaughlin uses this theory of force to illuminate the work of three of the most influential 19th century writers in their respective national traditions: Friedrich Holderlin, Charles Baudelaire, and Matthew Arnold.