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Persimmons by Leaning Against a Tree (Southeast) 15. Rabbit Gathers Canes (Southeast) 16. Squirrel Slits Open His Scrotum (Plains) 17. Duck Excretes Rice (Northeast) 18. Bird Gets Salmon Eggs by Striking His Ankle (Northwest Coast) 19. Muskrat Cooks Some Ice (Northeast) 20. Woodpecker Pulls Eels Out of Trees (Subarctic) Conclusion Appendix: Bungling Host Myths Notes Bibliography.

Sommario/riassunto

"Daniel Clement examines the "Bungling Host" tale known in a multitude of indigenous cultures in North America and beyond. In this groundbreaking work he reveals fuller meaning to these stories than previously recognized and underscores the limits of structuralism in understanding them"--

"The Bungling Host motif appears in countless indigenous cultures in North America and beyond. In this groundbreaking work Daniel Clement has gathered more than four hundred North American variants of the story to examine how myths acquire meaning for their indigenous users and explores how seemingly absurd narratives can prove to be a rich source of meaning when understood within the appropriate context. In analyzing the Bungling Host tales, Clement considers not only material culture but also social, economic, and cultural life; Native knowledge of the environment; and the world of plants and animals.

 Clement's analysis uncovers four operational modes in myth construction and clarifies the relationship between mythology and science. Ultimately he demonstrates how science may have developed out of an operational mode that already existed in the mythological mind.
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