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Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction: Reading Childhood Through Literature: Naomi Miller and Diane Purkiss -- 2. Adult Ideologies in Late-Medieval Advisory Literature: Anna Caughey -- 3. Learning to Talk: Colloquies and the Formation of Childhood Monastic Identity in Late Anglo-Saxon England: Rebecca King Cerling -- 4. Children Bewitched – Children Possessed: Three Early Modern Examples: Gerhild Williams -- 5. The Tudor Schoolroom, Antique Fables, and Fairy Toys: Catherine Belsey -- 6. Valuing New England Childhood through the Joyful Deaths of Cotton Mather’s A Token for the Children of New England: Ivy Linton Stabell -- 7. Changeling Stories: The Child Substitution Motif in the Chester

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Sommario/riassunto

Building on recent critical work, this volume offers a comprehensive consideration of the nature and forms of medieval and early modern childhoods, viewed through literary cultures. Its five groups of thematic essays range across a spectrum of disciplines, periods, and locations, from cultural anthropology and folklore to performance studies and the history of science, and from Anglo-Saxon burial sites to colonial America. Contributors include several renowned writers for children. The opening group of essays, Educating Children, explores what is perhaps the most powerful social engine for the shaping of a child. Performing Childhood addresses children at work and the role of play in the development of social imitation and learning. Literatures of Childhood examines texts written for children that reveal alternative conceptions of parent/child relations. In Legacies of Childhood, expressions of grief at the loss of a child offer a window into the family's conceptions and values. Finally, Fictionalizing Literary Cultures for Children considers the real, material child versus the fantasy of the child as a subject.
