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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 221-238), filmography (p. 239), and index.
Nota di contenuto	Title page-Dances with Spiders; Contents; List of Illustrations; Acknowledgements; Preface; Introduction; Part I-Past and Present Spider Webs; CH 1-Seeking St Paul; CH 2-Webs through Time; Part II-The Spider's Cult Today; CH 3-Curing Myths and fictive cures; CH 4-Ads and antidotes; CH 5-Sensing Identities and Well-being; Part III-From Ritual to Limelight; CH 6-Spider WoMen transfixed; CH 7-Tarantula threads and showbiz airs; CH 8-Spider WoMen transformed; Part IV-Conclusion; CH 9-Dancing Beyond Spiders; Epilogue; Bibliography; Filmography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	For centuries, the rite of the tarantula was the only cure for those 'bitten' or 'possessed' by the mythic Apulian spider. Its victims had to dance to the local tarantella or 'pizzica' for days on end. Today, the pizzica has returned to the limelight, bringing to the forefront issues of performance, gender, identity and well-being. This book explores how and why the pizzica has boomed in the Salento and elsewhere and asks

whether this current popularity has anything to do with the historic ritual of tarantism or with the intention of recovering well-being. While personal stories and experien

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