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Soggetti	Devotional literature, English (Middle) - History and criticism English literature - Middle English, 1100-1500 - History and criticism Nuns - Religious life Nuns - Books and reading - England - History - To 1500 Women - Religious aspects - Christianity English Languages & Literatures English Literature
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction --Part I. The religious context --1. The Fourth Lateran Council --2. Eucharist theology --3. The female religious movement: anchorites and beguines --4. Anchorite spirituality --5. Lay piety --Part II. Pastoralia and vernacular pastoral literature --6. Pastoralia --7. The rhetoric of preaching --8. Beguine sermons --9. Pastoral literature --Part III. Ancrene Wisse: text and context --10. The rhetoric of Ancrene Wisse; i. Structure; ii. Exempla and similitudines --11. Ancrene Wisse: asceticism and contemplation --12. Reading Ancrene Wisse as vernacular spirituality --Conclusion --Bibliography --Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Provides an introduction to "Ancrene Wisse", one of the most important works in English of the thirteenth century. This book offers a fresh contextualisation which engages with the history of lay piety and vernacular spirituality in the Middle Ages. This book is innovative in

that it provides an introduction to "Ancrene Wisse", one of the most important works in English of the thirteenth century. It offers a new contextualisation which engages with the history of lay piety and vernacular spirituality in the Middle Ages, thus extending analysis of the book beyond its original purpose as a guide for anchoresses. The placing of "Ancrene Wisse" within this context also allows comparisons to be made with other literature for semi-regular women, such as sermons preached to beguines - semi-religious women who formed communities in the Low Countries and France in the High Middle Ages.
