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| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references (p. 189-198) and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Bruno Schulz : the prisoner of myth -- Witold Gombrowicz : the transforming self -- Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz : modernism to madness -- Czeslaw Milosz : a testament of exile -- Zbigniew Herbert : the darkness of Mr. Cogito -- Wislawa Szymborska : the power of preserving -- Gustaw Herling-Grudzinski : sleepless in Naples -- Tadeusz Konwicki : Polish endgame -- Adam Zagajewski : to hear the sound of everything. |
| Sommario/riassunto | Twentieth-century Polish literature is often said to be a "witness to history," a narrative of the historical and political disasters that visited the nation. In this insightful book, Jaroslaw Anders examines Poland's modern poetry and fiction and explains that the best Polish writing of the period 1918-1989 was much more than testimony. Rather, it constantly transformed historical experience into metaphysical reflection, a philosophical or religious exploration of human existence. Anders analyzes and contextualizes the work of nine modern Polish writers. These include the "three madmen" of the interwar period-Schulz, Gombrowicz, and Witkiewicz, whom he calls the fathers of Polish modernist prose; the great poets of the war generation-Milosz, Herbert, and Szymborska; Herling-Grudzinski and Konwicki, with their dark philosophical subtexts; and the mystical-ecstatic poet Zagajewski. A collection of essays representing Anders's thinking over several decades, Between Fire and Sleep offers a fresh understanding of |

modern Polish literature and cultural identity.
