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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: practising with theory -- Psychoanalysis and early modern culture: Lacan with Augustine and Montaigne -- Love as trompe-l'oeil: taxonomies of desire in Venus and Adonis -- Tarquin dispossessed: expropriation and consent in <i>The rape of Lucrece</i> -- Antinomies of desire and the sonnets -- Peter Quince's ballad: memory, psychoanalysis, history and <i>A midsummer night's dream</i> -- The illusion of empire: Elizabethan expansionism and Shakespeare's second tetralogy -- Making histories then and now: Shakespeare from <i>Richard II</i> to <i>Henry V</i> -- The case of Hamlet's conscience -- Iago the essayist.
Sommario/riassunto	In these essays brought together here for the first time world-renowned critic Catherine Belsey puts theory to work in order to register Shakespeare's powers of seduction.