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| Nota di bibliografia    | Includes bibliographical references and indexes.  |
| Nota di contenuto       | Contents; Acknowledgment; Abbreviations; INTRODUCTION; Chapter 1 PROLEGOMENA TO A READING OF THE CRITICISM OF EARLY IRISH TEXTS; Chapter 2 BOOKS OF MARGINS: READING BIBLICAL CRITICISM, LITERARY THEORY AND EARLY IRISH TEXTS; Chapter 3 WEAKNESS AND HUMAN FRAILTY: A READING OF THE BOOK OF JONAH AND SOME EPISODES FROM LIVES OF COLUMBA; Chapter 4 WEAKNESS AND MASOCHISM: A READING OF THE SAMSON STORY AND SOME TALES ABOUT CU CHULAINN; Chapter 5 WEAKNESS AND FOLLY: A READING OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER AND TOCHMARC BECFHOLA; CONCLUSION; Appendix I; Appendix II; Appendix III; Glossary of Irish Terms; Bibliography; Index of Biblical and Ancient References; Index of Early Irish Texts; Index of Authors |
| Sommario/riassunto      | Are early Irish stories influenced by the Bible or transcriptions of pre-Christian Celtic lore? Layzer explores the practical and theoretical difficulties of determining 'influence' in ancient writing, and the relationship between the oral and the written, literacy and literature and the disciplines of Irish Studies and Biblical Studies.<This fascinating comparative study matches Samson, Jonah and Esther with  |

three Irish heroes for similarities in theme and treatment. Among the features explored are weakness and heroic strength, gender and power, frailty and ambiguity.

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