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Titolo	Reading law [[electronic resource]] : the rhetorical shaping to the Pentateuch / / James W. Watts
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Acknowledgments; Abbreviations; Introduction; Chapter 1 READING; Chapter 2 RHETORIC; Chapter 3 INSTRUCTION; Chapter 4 COMMANDMENT; Chapter 5 LAW; Postscript on Rhetorical Ethics; Bibliography; Index of References; Index of Authors; Index of Selected Topics
Sommario/riassunto	Watts here argues that conventions of oral rhetoric were adapted to shape the literary form and contents of the Pentateuch. The large-scale structure-stories introducing lists of laws that conclude with divine sanctions-reproduces a common ancient strategy for persuasion. The laws' use of direct address, historical motivations and frequent repetitions serve rhetorical ends, and even the legal contradictions seem designed to appeal to competing constituencies. The instructional speeches of God and Moses reinforce the persuasive appeal by characterizing God as a just ruler and Moses as a faithfu