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Nota di contenuto	List of Figures -- Notes on Contributors -- Introduction -- Bernd-Christian Otto and Dirk Johannsen -- 1Magic as Pollution: Fictional Blasphemies and Ritual Realities in the Roman Period (1st cen. BCE-4th cen. C) -- Kyle Fraser -- 2The Medieval Anti-Faust: Stories, Rituals, and Self-Representations in the Flowers of Heavenly Teaching -- Claire Fanger -- 3Enchantment and Anger in Medieval Icelandic Literature and Later Folklore -- Aðalheiður Guðmundsdóttir -- 4Narratives of the Witch, the Magician, and the Devil in Early Modern Grimoires -- Owen Davies -- 5When Ritual Texts Become Legendary Practice and Fiction in Nordic Folklore -- Ane Ohrvik -- 6Magic and Literary Imagination in H. P. Blavatsky's Theosophy -- Marco Frenschkowski -- 7The Emergence of Fictional Practice in the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn: W.B. Yeats' Talismanic Poetry -- Dirk Johannsen -- 8"My Life in a Love Cult": Tantra, Orientalism, and Sex Magic in Early Twentieth-Century Fiction -- Hugh B. Urban -- 9Drawing Down the Moon: From Classical Greece to Modern Wicca? -- Ethan Doyle White -- 10Drinking from Hecate's Fountain: Kenneth Grant's Typhonian Trilogies and the Fusion Between Literature and Practiced Magic -- Christian Giudice -- 11If One Knows Where to Look, Fiction is Magic: Reading Fictional Texts as Manuals of Magic in Post-Soviet Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus -- Kateryna Zorya --

12 "Cthulhu Gnosis" Monstrosity, Selfhood, and Secular Re-
Enchantment in Lovecraftian Occultural Practice --
Justin Woodman -- 13 A Magickal School in the Twenty-First Century:
The Grey School of Wizardry and Its Prehistory -- Carole
M. Cusack -- 14 Fictional Practice from Antiquity to Today --
Bernd-Christian Otto -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

To what extent were practitioners of magic inspired by fictional accounts of their art? In how far did the daunting narratives surrounding legendary magicians such as Theophilus of Adana, Cyprianus of Antioch, Johann Georg Faust or Agrippa of Nettesheim rely on real-world events or practices? Fourteen original case studies present material from late antiquity to the twenty-first century and explore these questions in a systematic manner. By coining the notion of 'fictional practice', the editors discuss the emergence of novel, imaginative types of magic from the nineteenth century onwards when fiction and practice came to be more and more intertwined or even fully amalgamated. This is the first comparative study that systematically relates fiction and practice in the history of magic.
