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8 "A plague on both your houses": Sites of Comfort and Terror in Early Modern Drama; Part IV: Contemporary Turns; 9 Plague in A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Girardian Reading of Bottom and Hippolyta; 10 Dekker's and Middleton's Plague Pamphlets as Environmental Literature; Afterword: Plague and Metaphor; Notes on Contributors; Index

Sommario/riassunto

This collection offers readers a timely encounter with the historical experience of people adapting to a pandemic emergency and the corresponding narrative representation of that crisis, as early modern writers transformed the plague into literature. The essays examine the impact of the plague on health, politics, and religion as well as on the plays, prose fiction, and plague bills that stand as witnesses to the experience of a society devastated by contagious disease. Readers will find physicians and moralists wrestling with the mysteries of the disease; erotic escapades staged in plague-
