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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Table of Contents -- CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION » GOOD WORKS« AND »FINE THINGS« -- CHAPTER 2: CIRCULARITIES OR THE POETICS OF RETURN -- CHAPTER 3: KNOWLEDGE AND HAPPINESS -- CHAPTER 4: TRANSPARENT SPHERES, OR THE BEAUTY OF CREATION -- CHAPTER 5: TRANSPARENT DUPLICITIES -- Backmatter
Sommario/riassunto	Transparency and Dissimulation analyses the configurations of ancient neoplatonism in early modern English texts. In looking closely at poems and prose writings by authors as diverse as Thomas Wyatt, Philip Sidney, Edmund Spenser, John Donne, Edward Herbert, Andrew Marvell, Thomas Traherne, Thomas Browne and, last not least, Aphra Behn, this study attempts to map the outlines of a neoplatonic aesthetics in literary practice as well as to chart its transformative potential in the shifting contexts of cultural turbulency and denominational conflict in 16th- and 17th-century England. As part of a "new", contextually aware, aesthetics, it seeks to determine some of the functions neoplatonic structures - such as forms of recursivity or certain modes of apophatic speech - are capable of fulfilling in combination and interaction with other, heterogeneous or even

ideologically incompatible elements. What emerges is a surprisingly versatile poetics of excess and enigma, with strong Plotinian and Erigenist accents. This appears to need the traditional ingredients of petrarchism or courtliness only as material for the formation of new and dynamic wholes, revealing its radical metaphysical potential above all in the way it helps to resist the easy answers - in religion, science, or the fashions of libertine love.
