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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. The Golden Chains of Citation -- 2. Holy Duplicity: The Preacher's Two Faces -- 3. A Manner of Speaking: Access and the Vernacular -- 4. "Mere Words": Gendered Eloquence and Christian Preaching -- 5. Transparent Bodies and the Redemption of Rhetoric -- 6. The Alibi of Female Authority -- 7. Sermones ad Status and Old Wives' Tales; or, The Audience Talks Back -- Abbreviations -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Texts by, for, and about preachers from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries reveal an intense interest in the preacher's human nature and its intersection with his "angelic" role. Far from simply denigrating embodiment or excluding it from consideration, these works recognize its centrality to the office of preacher and the ways in which preachers, like Christ, needed humanness to make their performance of doctrine effective for their audiences. At the same time, the texts warned of the preacher's susceptibility to the fleshly failings of lust, vainglory, deception, and greed. Preaching's problematic juxtaposition of the earthly and the spiritual made images of women preachers, real and fictional, key to understanding and exploiting the power, as well as the dangers, of the feminized flesh. Addressing the underexamined bodies of the clergy in light of both medieval and modern discussions of

female authority and the body of Christ in medieval culture, *Angels and Earthly Creatures* reinserts women into the history of preaching and brings together discourses that would have been intertwined in the Middle Ages but are often treated separately by scholars. The examination of handbooks for preachers as literary texts also demonstrates their extensive interaction with secular literary traditions, explored here with particular reference to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Through a close and insightful reading of a wide variety of texts and figures, including Hildegard of Bingen, Birgitta of Sweden, and Catherine of Siena, Waters offers an original examination of the preacher's unique role as an intermediary-standing between heaven and earth, between God and people, participating in and responsible to both sides of that divide.
