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Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Title; Copyright; CONTENTS; List of illustrations; Preface; Acknowledgements; Mary Douglas's monographs and collected essays: A note on referencing; 1 Memories of a Catholic girlhood': 1920's and 1930's; 2 Oxford years: 1940's; 3 The Africanist: 1950's; 4 Purity and Danger revisited; 5 Natural Symbols defended; 6 Rituals of consumption; 7 Verbal weapons and environments at risk; 8 Returning to religion ... in the contemporary West; 9 Returning to religion ... in the Old Testament; 10 Do institutions think?; 11 The secret consciousness of individuals and the consecrated society; References Appendix 1 Mary Douglas: a bibliography 1950...98 Appendix 2 Reviews of books written by Mary Douglas; Appendix 3 Concordance of the two editions of Natural Symbols; Name index; Subject index
Sommario/riassunto	This is the first full length account of the life and ideas of Mary Douglas, the British social anthropologist whose publications span the second half of the twentieth century. Richard Fardon covers Douglas' family background, and the pervasive influence of her catholic faith on her writings before providing an analysis of two of her most influential works; Purity and Danger (1966) and Natural Symbols (1970). The final section deals with Douglas' more controversial writings in the fields of

economics, consumption, religion and risk analysis in contemporary societies.
