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	Nota di contenuto	Contents; Abbreviations; Introduction; Part I: ESTHER: WHEN GENDER POLITICS REPRESENT POWER POLITICS; Esther: Folklore, Wisdom, Feminism and Authority; An Oriental Beauty Parlour: An Analysis of Esther 2.8-18 in the Hebrew, the Septuagint and the Second Greek Text; Looking at Esther through the Looking Glass; Mirror, Mirror in the Text: Reflections on Reading and Rereading; Tracing Esther's Beginnings; Esther: The Incomplete Emancipation of a Queen; Esther and the Queen's Throne; Honor and Shame in Esther; Esther Revisited: An Aggadic Approach; Esther's Story Part II: JUDITH: ON POWER, LEADERSHIP AND KNOWLEDGESacrifice and Salvation: Otherness and Domestication in the Book of Judith; Judith as Alternative Leader: A Rereading of Judith 7-13; Head Hunting: 'Judith' on the Cutting Edge of Knowledge; Part III: SUSANNA: THE READER'S POWER/KNOWLEDGE- ON VIEWING A JEWISH WOMAN/COMMUNITY; The Accused: Susanna and her Readers; 'Hemmed in on Every Side': Jews and Women in the Book of Susanna; Bibliography
	Sommario/riassunto	Do we confront in these three characters feminist heroines or patriarchally idealised stooges? From the worldly Esther to the piously devout Susanna via the militant widow, these female figures appear

both as meticulously sculpted individuals and as metaphors for a Jewish Community under threat. The wealth of antiguity in these characters is exposed to a wide range of perceptions in this marvellous collection.