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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Acknowledgements; Abbreviations; Chapter 1 PROLEGOMENA: TOWARD A THEORY OF READING SCRIPTURAL TEXTS; Chapter 2 READING ECCLESIASTES AS A FIRST-PERSON SCRIPTURAL TEXT; Chapter 3 AMBIGUITIES, RIDDLES AND PUZZLES: AN OVERVIEW OF THE LINGUISTIC AND STRUCTURAL READER PROBLEMS IN THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES; Chapter 4 THE EPISTEMOLOGICAL SPIRAL: THE IRONIC USE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE KNOWLEDGE IN THE NARRATIVE PRESENTATION OF QOHELETH; Chapter 5 ROBUST RETICENCE AND THE RHETORIC OF THE SELF: READER RELATIONSHIPS AND THE USE OF FIRST-PERSON DISCOURSE IN ECCLESIASTES 1.1-6.9 Chapter 6 A RHETORIC OF SUBVERSIVE SUBTLETY: THE EFFECT OF QOHELETH'S FIRST-PERSON DISCOURSE ON READER RELATIONSHIPS IN ECCLESIASTES 6.10-12.14Chapter 7 VAIN RHETORIC: SOME CONCLUSIONS; Appendix: WISDOM REFLECTIONS (PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE) IN THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES; Bibliography; Index of References; Index of Modern Authors
Sommario/riassunto	The Book of Ecclesiastes, like many ancient and modern first-person discourses, generates ambivalent responses in its readers. The book's rhetorical strategy produces both acceptance of, and suspicion towards, the major positions argued by the author. 'Vain rhetoric' aptly

describes the persuasive and dissuasive properties of the narrator's peculiar characterization. It also describes how the Book of Ecclesiastes, with its abundant use of rhetorical questions, constant gapping techniques, and other strategies from the arsenal of ambiguity, is a stunning testimony to the power of the various str
