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Titolo	Charlotte Brontë and Contagion : Myths, Memes, and the Politics of Infection / / by Jo Waugh
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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Chapter 1 Contagion and the Brontës -- Chapter 2: Miasma and Weather: Life, Letters and Biography -- Chapter 3: Consumption: Myths of Romantic Individualism -- Chapter 4: Jane Eyre: Typhus, Heroism, and “The Common Brotherhood of Man” -- Chapter 5: Shirley: Fermentation, Barriers, and Boundaries -- Chapter 6: “Charlotte,” Jane and the Subjectivity Meme -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	This book argues for the significance of contagious disease in critical and biographical assessment of Charlotte Brontë’s work. Waugh argues that contagion, infection, and quarantining strategies are central themes in Jane Eyre (1847), Shirley (1849), and Villette (1853). This book establishes the ways in which Charlotte Brontë was closely engaged with the political and social contexts in which she wrote, extending this to the representation and metaphorical import of illness in Brontë’s novels. Waugh also posits that although miasmatic theories are often assumed to have been entirely in the ascendant in the late 1840s, the relationship between miasma and contagion was a complex

one and contagion in fact remained a crucial way for Charlotte Brontë to represent disease itself, as well as to explore the relationships between the individual and social, political, and cultural contexts. Contagion and its metaphors are central to Charlotte Brontë's construction of subjectivity and of the responsibilities of the individual and the group. Jo Waugh is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at York St John University, UK.

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