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Autore	Abusch I. Tzvi
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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- Sources -- 1. Ishtar's Proposal and Gilgamesh's Refusal: An Interpretation of The Gilgamesh Epic, Tablet VI, Lines 1-79 -- 2. Gilgamesh's Request and Siduri's Denial, Part I: The Meaning of the Dialogue and Its Implications for the History of the Epic -- 3. Gilgamesh's Request and Siduri's Denial, Part II: An Analysis and Interpretation of an Old Babylonian Fragment about Mourning and Celebration -- 4. Mourning the Death of a Friend: Some Assyriological Notes -- 5. The Epic of Gilgamesh and the Homeric Epics -- 6. The Development and Meaning of the Epic of Gilgamesh: An Interpretive Essay -- 7. The Courtesan, the Wild Man, and the Hunter: Studies in the Literary History of the Epic of Gilgamesh -- 8. Hunting in the Epic of Gilgamesh: Speculations on the Education of a Prince -- 9. The Tale of the Wild Man and the Courtesan in India and Mesopotamia: The Seductions of Rsyasrnga in the Mahabharata and Enkidu in the Epic of Gilgamesh (coauthored with Emily West) -- Abbreviations -- Bibliography -- Index of Citations.
Sommario/riassunto	The deeds and struggles of Gilgamesh, legendary king of the city-state Uruk in the land of Sumer, have fascinated readers for millennia. They are preserved primarily in the Epic of Gilgamesh, one of the most well-known pieces of Mesopotamian literature. Studying the text draws us

into an orbit that is engaging and thrilling, for it is a work of fantasy and legend that addresses some of the very existential issues with which contemporary readers still grapple. We experience the excitement of trying to penetrate the mind-set of another civilization, an ancient one--in this instance, a civilization that ultimately gave rise to our own. The studies gathered here all demonstrate Tzvi Abusch's approach to ancient literature: to make use of the tools of literary, structural, and critical analysis in service of exploring the personal and psychological dimensions of the narration. The author focuses especially on the encounters between males and females in the story. The essays are not only instructive for understanding the Epic of Gilgamesh, they also serve as exemplary studies of ancient literature with a view to investigating streams of commonality between ancient times and ours.
