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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The bounds of history -- How the past became a place -- The transient nature of all things sublunary -- Collecting Utopia -- The past is a rural landscape -- Commemorative hauntings -- Beyond storytelling.
Sommario/riassunto	In this innovative work, Julia King moves nimbly among a variety of sources and disciplinary approaches--archaeological, historical, architectural, literary, and art-historical--to show how places take on, convey, and maintain meanings. Focusing on the beautiful Chesapeake Bay region of Maryland, King looks at the ways in which various groups, from patriots and politicians of the antebellum era to present-day archaeologists and preservationists, have transformed key landscapes into historical, indeed sacred, spaces. The sites King examines include

the region's vanishing tobacco farms; St. Mary's City, established as Maryland's first capital by English settlers in the seventeenth century; and Point Lookout, the location of a prison for captured Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. As the author explores the historical narratives associated with such places, she uncovers some surprisingly durable myths as well as competing ones. St. Mary's City, for example, early on became the center of Maryland's "founding narrative" of religious tolerance, a view commemorated in nineteenth-century celebrations and reflected even today in local museum exhibits and preserved buildings. And at Point Lookout, one private group has established a Confederate Memorial Park dedicated to those who died at the prison, thus nurturing the Lost Cause ideology that arose in the South in the late 1800s, while nearby the custodians of a 1,000-acre state park avoid controversy by largely ignoring the area's Civil War history, preferring instead to concentrate on recreation and tourism, an unusually popular element of which has become the recounting of ghost stories. As King shows, the narratives that now constitute the public memory in southern Maryland tend to overlook the region's more vexing legacies, particularly those involving slavery and race. Noting how even her own discipline of historical archaeology has been complicit in perpetuating old narratives, King calls for research--particularly archaeological research--that produces new stories and "counter-narratives" that challenge old perceptions and interpretations and thus convey a more nuanced grasp of a complicated past. Julia A. King is an associate professor of anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where she coordinates the Museum Studies Program and directs the SlackWater Center, a consortium devoted to exploring, documenting, and interpreting the changing landscapes of Chesapeake communities. She is also coeditor, with Dennis B. Blanton, of *Indian and European Contact in Context: The Mid-Atlantic Region*.

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