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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviation List -- CHAPTER ONE. Introduction -- CHAPTER TWO. Asceticism in Late Ancient Christianity -- CHAPTER THREE. Reading in the Early Christian World -- CHAPTER FOUR. The Profits and Perils of Figurative Exegesis -- CHAPTER FIVE. Exegetical and Rhetorical Strategies for Ascetic Reading -- CHAPTER SIX. Three Models of Reading Renunciation -- CHAPTER SEVEN. From Reproduction to Defamilialization -- CHAPTER EIGHT. From Ritual to Asksis -- CHAPTER NINE. The Exegesis of Divorce -- CHAPTER TEN. I Corinthians 7 in Early Christian Exegesis -- CHAPTER ELEVEN. From Paul to the Pastorals -- Afterword -- Bibliography -- Select Index of Biblical Passages -- Select General Index

A study of how asceticism was promoted through Biblical interpretation, *Reading Renunciation* uses contemporary literary theory to unravel the writing strategies of the early Christian authors. Not a general discussion of early Christian teachings on celibacy and marriage, the book is a close examination, in the author's words, of how "the Fathers' axiology of abstinence informed their interpretation of Scriptural texts and incited the production of ascetic meaning." Elizabeth Clark begins with a survey of scholarship concerning early Christian asceticism that is designed to orient the nonspecialist. Section Two is organized around potentially troubling issues posed by Old Testament texts that demanded skillful handling by ascetically inclined Christian exegetes. The third section, "Reading Paul," focuses on the hermeneutical problems raised by I Corinthians 7, and the Deutero-Pauline and Pastoral Epistles. Elizabeth Clark's remarkable work will be of interest to scholars of late antiquity, religion, literary theory, and history.
