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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 135-144) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Why a new history of fairy tales? -- Two accounts of the Grimm's tales : the folk as creator, the book as source -- The late seventeenth- and eighteenth-century layers : Perrault, Lheritier, and their successors -- The two inventors of fairy tale tradition : Giambattista Basile (1634-1636) and Giovan Francesco Straparola (1551, 1553) -- A new history.
Sommario/riassunto	This work overturns traditional views of the origins of fairy tales and documents their actual origins and transmission. Where did Cinderella come from? Puss in Boots? Rapunzel? The origins of fairy tales are looked at in a new way in these highly engaging pages. Conventional wisdom holds that fairy tales originated in the oral traditions of peasants and were recorded for posterity by the Brothers Grimm during the nineteenth century. The author overturns this view in this account of the origins of these well loved stories. Charles Perrault created Cinderella and her fairy godmother, but no countrywoman whispered this tale into Perrault's ear. Instead, his Cinderella appeared only after he had edited it from the book of often amoral tales published by Giambattista Basile in Naples. Distinguishing fairy tales from folktales and showing the influence of the medieval romance on them, the author documents how fairy tales originated as urban writing for urban

readers and listeners. Working backward from the Grimms to the earliest known sixteenth-century fairy tales of the Italian Renaissance, she argues for a book based history of fairy tales. The first new approach to fairy tale history in decades, this book answers questions about where fairy tales came from and how they spread, illuminating a narrative process long veiled by surmise and assumption.

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