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Autore	Harmon A. G. <1962->
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 185-190) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- The Semblance of Virtue -- Things Seen and Unseen -- Perfection in Reversion -- Matching Meanings -- Lawful Title -- Nature's Double Name -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In <i>Eternal Bonds, True Contracts</i> , A. G. Harmon closely analyzes Shakespeare's concentrated use of the law and its instruments in what have often been referred to as the problem plays: <i>Measure for Measure</i> , <i>Troilus and Cressida</i> , <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , and <i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> . Contracts, bonds, sureties, wills—all ensure a changed relationship between parties, and in Shakespeare the terms are nearly always reserved for use in the contexts of marriage and fellowship. Harmon explores the theory and practice of contractual obligations in Renaissance England, especially those involving marriage and property, in order to identify contractual elements and their formation, execution, and breach in the plays. Using both legal and literary resources, Harmon reveals the larger significance of these contractual concepts by illustrating how Shakespeare develops them both dramatically and thematically. Harmon's study ultimately enables the

reader to perceive not only these plays but also all of Shakespeare's writing—including his poetry—as integral with, and implicated in, the proliferating legalism that was helping to define early modern English culture.

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