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Titolo	The Fifth Plague : Cattle, Contagion, and the Medical Posthumanities / / by Lucinda Cole
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Collana	Palgrave Studies in Animals and Literature, , 2634-6346
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Soggetti	European literature Veterinary medicine Literature, Modern - 17th century Literature, Modern - 18th century European literature - Renaissance, 1450-1600 Literature, Modern - 19th century European Literature Veterinary Science Seventeenth-Century Literature Eighteenth-Century Literature Early Modern and Renaissance Literature Nineteenth-Century Literature
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Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1-Cattle, Disease, and the Stories We Tell.-Chapter 2- Dire Plague Creeping: Vermin, De Mortibus Boum, and Christian Disease Ecologies -- Chapter 3-Zoonotic Shakespeare: Merchants and Livestock in Venice -- Chapter 4-Journals of the Plague Years: Flesh Markets and Easterly Winds.-Chapter 5-Bovine Elegies and Bioinsecurities, 1740-1790 -- Chapter 6-Steppe Disease and Cholera During Britain's Last Great Outbreak.
Sommario/riassunto	This book examines murrain, or mass mortalities of cattle, in ways that bridge the gap between animal studies and the health humanities. Beginning with early modern European disease ecologies but informed

by contemporary epidemiological and ecological concerns, *The Fifth Plague* offers a new historical approach to literary plague studies, one taking seriously real and imagined relationships between human outbreaks, such as bubonic plague and cholera, and a series of even more mysterious animal diseases that killed in equally great numbers. Chapters include careful readings of literary texts by, among others, William Shakespeare, John Dryden, Daniel Defoe, and Sophie Amelia Prosser. Uniting these readings is a shared history of murrains recorded in Virgil, but also the powerful legacy of the Ten Plagues of Egypt narrative, in which human and non-human afflictions are materially and theologically bound. “Great mortalities” of cattle, Cole argues, brought with them feelings of individual and collective vulnerability. As scientists and humanists face increasingly politicized information networks, this book calls for an exploration of the past, present, and future of humanity’s decidedly interdependent and zoonotic existence. Lucinda Cole is Associate Professor in the Department of English at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA. She previously published *Imperfect Creatures: Vermin, Literature, and the Sciences of Life, 1600-1740* (2016).

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