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   Nota di contenuto   Frontmatter -- Preface and Acknowledgments -- Contents --
                              Introduction -- 1. Text, Author, and the Function of Authorship -- 2.
                              The Author as Cultural Hero: The Yellow Emperor, the Symbolic Author
                              -- 3. The Author as the Head of a Teaching Lineage: Confucius, the
                              Quotable Author -- 4. The Author as a Patron: Prince of Huainan, the
                              Owner-Author -- 5. The Author as an Individual Writer: Sima Qian, the
                              Presented Author -- Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Index

   Sommario/riassunto   This book is a timely response to a rather urgent call to seek an
                              updated methodology in rereading and reappraising early Chinese texts
                              in light of newly discovered early writings. For a long time, the concept
                              of authorship in the formation and transmission of early Chinese texts
                              has been misunderstood. The nominal author who should mainly

function as a guide to text formation and interpretation is considered retrospectively as the originator and writer of the text. This book illustrates that although some notions about the text as the author's property began to appear in some Eastern Han texts, a strict correlation between the author and the text results from later conceptions of literary history. Before the modern era, there existed a conceptual gap between an author and a writer. A pre-modern Chinese text could have had both an author and a writer, or even multiple authors and multiple writers. This work is the first study addressing these issues by more systematically emphasizing the connection of the text, the author, and the religious and sociopolitical settings in which these issues were embedded. It is expected to constitute a palpable contribution to Chinese studies and the discipline of philology in general