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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Are Mothers Hazardous to Their Children's Health? -- 2. The Social, Psychological, and Legal Construction of Risk -- 3. How Healthy Are America's Children? -- 4. Conceptions of Risk: -- 5. Drug Use by Pregnant Women -- 6. Caught in the Crossfire -- 7. The "Good Mother" and Crimes of Omission -- 8. Childhood Lead Poisoning and Other People's Children -- 9. The Vaccination Paradox -- 10. Moving beyond Blame -- Appendix. Criminal Prosecutions of Parents Based on a Failure to Act -- Notes -- Index -- About the Author
Sommario/riassunto	A gripping explanation of the biases that lead to the blaming of pregnant women and mothers. Are mothers truly a danger to their children's health? In 2004, a mentally disabled young woman in Utah was charged by prosecutors with murder after she declined to have a Caesarian section and subsequently delivered a stillborn child. In 2010, a pregnant woman who attempted suicide when the baby's father abandoned her was charged with murder and attempted feticide after the daughter she delivered prematurely died. These are just two of the many cases that portray mothers as the major source of health risk for their children. The American legal system is deeply shaped by unconscious risk perception that distorts core legal principles to punish mothers who "fail to protect" their children. In Blaming Mothers,

Professor Fentiman explores how mothers became legal targets. She explains the psychological processes we use to confront tragic events and the unconscious race, class, and gender biases that affect our perceptions and influence the decisions of prosecutors, judges, and jurors. Fentiman examines legal actions taken against pregnant women in the name of “fetal protection” including court ordered C-sections and maintaining brain-dead pregnant women on life support to gestate a fetus, as well as charges brought against mothers who fail to protect their children from an abusive male partner. She considers the claims of physicians and policymakers that refusing to breastfeed is risky to children’s health. And she explores the legal treatment of lead-poisoned children, in which landlords and lead paint manufacturers are not held responsible for exposing children to high levels of lead, while mothers are blamed for their children’s injuries. *Blaming Mothers* is a powerful call to reexamine who - and what - we consider risky to children’s health. Fentiman offers an important framework for evaluating childhood risk that, rather than scapegoating mothers, provides concrete solutions that promote the health of all of America’s children.
