1. Record Nr. UNINA9910163951203321

Autore Jamison Kay Redfield

Titolo Robert Lowell, Setting the River on Fire: A Study of Genius, Mania, and

Character

Pubbl/distr/stampa New York:,: Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group,, 2017

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ISBN 1-101-94796-9

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (533 pages)

Classificazione BIO007000PSY049000PSY034000

Disciplina 616.89/50092

Soggetti People with bipolar disorder - United States

Poets, American - 20th century Genius and mental illness

Creative ability

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Literary PSYCHOLOGY / Psychopathology / Depression

PSYCHOLOGY / Creative Ability

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di contenuto Intro -- Other Titles -- Title Page -- Copyright -- Dedication --

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In this magisterial study of the relationship between illness and art, the best-selling author of An Unquiet Mind brings a fresh perspective to the life and work of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Robert Lowell. In his poetry, Lowell put his manic-depressive illness (now known as bipolar disorder) into the public domain, and in the process created a new and arresting language for madness. Here Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison brings her expertise in mood disorders to bear on Lowell's story, illuminating not only the relationships between mania, depression, and creativity but also how Lowell's illness and treatment influenced his work (and often became its subject). A bold, sympathetic account of a poet who was-both despite and because of mental illness-a passionate, original observer of the human condition.