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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Part I. Strange Plants: New Frontiers in the Natural World : -- 1. Victorian Orchids and the Forms of Ecological Society -- 2. Discriminating the "Minuter Beauties of Nature": Botany as Natural Theology in a Victorian Medical School -- 3. "A Perfect World of Wonders": Marianne North and the Pleasures and Pursuits of Botany -- 4. Killer Plants of the Late Nineteenth Century -- Part II. Strange Bodies: Rethinking Physiology : -- 5. Reading through Deafness: Francis Galton and the Strange Science of Psychophysics -- 6. Performing Phonographic Physiology -- 7. "So Extraordinary a Bond": Mesmerism and Sympathetic Identification in Charles Adams's Notting Hill Mystery -- 8. Immoral Science in The Picture of Dorian Gray -- Part III. Strange Energies: Reconceptualizing the Physical Universe : -- 9. Chaotic Fictions: Nonlinear Effects in Victorian Science and Literature -- 10. The Victorian Occult Atom: Annie Besant and Clairvoyant Atomic Research -- 11. Inductive Science, Literary Theory, and the Occult in Edward Bulwer-Lytton's "Suggestive" System -- 12. Psychical Research and the Fantastic Science of Spirits -- 13. The Energy of Belief: The Unseen Universe, and the Spirit of Thermodynamics.
Sommario/riassunto	Strange Science: Investigating the Limits of Knowledge in the Victorian Age is an unprecedented collection that examines marginal, fringe, and unconventional forms of scientific inquiry, as well as their cultural representations in the Victorian period. Although now relegated to the category of the pseudoscientific, fields like mesmerism and psychical

research captured the imagination of the Victorian public. Conversely, many branches of science that we now view as uncontroversial, such as physics and botany, were often associated with unorthodox methods of inquiry. Whether incorporated into mainstream scientific thought, or relegated by 21st century historians to the category of the pseudo- or even anti-scientific, these sciences generated conversation, enthusiasm, and controversy within Victorian society.

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