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   Titolo   Homicide in American Fiction, 1798-1860 : A Study in Social Values / /
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   Nota di contenuto   Frontmatter -- PREFACE -- CONTENTS -- PART ONE. Homicide and the
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                        -- CONCLUSION -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX

   Sommario/riassunto   Homicide has many social and psychological implications that vary
                        from culture to culture and which change as people accept new ideas
                        concerning guilt, responsibility, and the causes of crime. A study of
                        attitudes toward homicide is therefore a method of examining social
                        values in a specific setting. Homicide in American Fiction, 1798-1860
                        is the first book to contrast psychological assumptions of imaginative
                        writers with certain social and intellectual currents in an attempt to
                        integrate social attitudes toward such diverse subjects as human evil,
                        moral responsibility, criminal insanity, social causes of crime, dueling,
                        lynching, the "unwritten law" of a husband's revenge, and capital
                        punishment. In addition to works of literary distinction by Cooper,
                        Hawthorne, Irving, and Poe, among others, Davis considers a large
                        body of cheap popular fiction generally ignored in previous studies of
                        the literature of this period. This is an engrossing study of fiction as a
                        reflection of and a commentary on social problems and as an influence