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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Moving Beyond Stigma -- 2. Genuine Family Values -- 3. Loss -- 4. Resilience, Strength, And Perseverance -- 5. "Everybody Knows My Grandma": Extended Families And Other Support Networks -- 6. "I Have To Do Something With My Life": Derailed Dreams -- 7. "I Really, Really Believed He Would Stick Around": Conflicting Conceptions Of Commitment -- 8. An Agenda For The Twenty-First Century: Caring For All Our Families -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	This compelling book destroys the derogatory images of single mothers that too often prevail in the media and in politics by creating a rich, moving, multidimensional picture of who these women really are. Ruth Sidel interviewed mothers from diverse races, ethnicities, religions, and social classes who became single through divorce, separation, widowhood, or who never married; none had planned to raise children on their own. Weaving together these women's voices with an accessible, cutting-edge sociological and political analysis of

single motherhood today, *Unsung Heroines* introduces a resilient, resourceful, and courageous population of women committed to their families, holding fast to quintessential American values, and creating positive new lives for themselves and their children. What emerges from this penetrating study is a clear message about what all families—two-parent as well as single parent—must have to succeed: decent jobs at a living wage, comprehensive health care, and preschool and after-school care. In a final chapter, Sidel gives a broad political-economic analysis that provides historical background on the way American social policy has evolved and compares the situation in the U.S. to the social policies and ideologies of other countries.
