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Nota di contenuto	Contents; 1 Prologue: The Case of the Counterfeit Autobiography; 2 Introduction: Authority, Autobiography, America; 3 The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin: Self-Constitutional Conventions; 4 Prose and Cons: The Autobiographies of P. T. Barnum; 5 False "I's": Mark Twain's Pseudonymous Autobiography; 6 (En)Slave(d) Narrative: Early Afro-American Autobiography; 7 Mary Boykin Chesnut: Secession, Confederacy, Reconstruction; 8 Black Elk Speaks With Forked Tongue; 9 Biculturalism in Contemporary Autobiography: Richard Rodriguez and Maxine Hong Kingston; 10 Conclusion; Notes Selected Bibliography/Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; Y
Sommario/riassunto	This book is concerned with the "authority" of autobiography, seeing it as a shifting ground on which writers struggle for literary control over their lives against the constraints of genre, language, and society.