

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910454645503321
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Titolo	Misery's mathematics : mourning, compensation, and reality in antebellum American literature // by Peter Balaam
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Routledge, , 2009
ISBN	1-135-88433-1 1-281-97755-1 9786611977559 0-203-50400-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (201 p.)
Collana	Literary criticism and cultural theory
Disciplina	810.9/353 810.9003 810.9353
Soggetti	American literature - 19th century - History and criticism Grief in literature Bereavement in literature Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [173]-180) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Title; Copyright; Contents; Figures; Acknowledgments; Introduction: "Misery's Mathematics"; 1 "The Laws of Our Learning": Emerson's Grief and the Geological Principles of Loss; 2 Playing with Water: Thrill and Theodicy in The Wide, Wide World; 3 Representing Grief, Mourning Representation: Melville's Piazza Tales; Afterword: Soldering the Abyss: The Possibilities of Compensation; Notes; Works Cited; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This book reveals the strain of a moment in American cultural history that led several remarkable writers -- including Emerson, Warner, and Melville -- to render the stark rupture of loss in innovative ways. Pushing Protestant culture's sense of loss into secular terrain, these three key writers rejected Calvinist and sentimental models of bereavement, creating instead the compensations of a mature American literature whose 'originality' stemmed from its capacity to

mourn the loss of a common culture and, through such mourning, to assent to new social and cultural realities. Balaam locates
