

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910454881803321
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Titolo	Black women in new South literature and culture // Sherita L. Johnson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Routledge, , 2010
ISBN	1-135-24446-4 1-282-25712-9 9786612257124 0-203-86785-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (173 p.)
Collana	Studies in American popular history and culture
Disciplina	810.9/3522
Soggetti	American literature - Southern States - History and criticism African American women 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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Title; Copyright; Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction; 1 'In the Sunny South': Reconstructing Frances Harper as Southern; 2 Conjuring a New South: Black Women Radicals in the Works of Charles Chesnutt and George Washington Cable; 3 New South, New Negro: Anna Julia Cooper's A Voice from the South; 4 'The South Is Our Home': Cultural Narratives of Place and Displacement; Epilogue: Voices, Bodies, and Texts: Making the Black Woman Visible in New South Literature and Culture; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Using the "'the Negro Problem'" in African American literature as a point of departure, this book focuses on the profound impact that racism had on the literary imagination of black Americans, specifically those in the South. Although the South has been one of the most enduring sites of criticism in American Studies and in American literary history, Johnson argues that it is impossible to consider what the "'South'" and what "'southernness'" mean as cultural references without looking at how black women have contributed to and contested any unified definition of that region. Johnson challen