

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455193703321
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Titolo	Sex expression and American women writers, 1860-1940 [[electronic resource] /] / Dale M. Bauer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chapel Hill, : University of North Carolina Press, 2009
ISBN	1-4696-0564-3 0-8078-8769-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (292 p.)
Disciplina	810.9/9287
Soggetti	American fiction - Women authors - History and criticism American fiction - 19th century - History and criticism American fiction - 20th century - History and criticism Sex in literature Language and sex Expression 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	The sexualization of American culture -- Blood, sex, and the ugly girl -- Refusing middle age -- Sex power -- Inarticulate sex -- Is sex everything? -- Conclusion: sexual exhaustion.
Sommario/riassunto	American women novelists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries registered a call for a new sexual freedom, Dale Bauer contends. By creating a lexicon of "sex expression," many authors explored sexuality as part of a discourse about women's needs rather than confining it to the realm of sentiments, where it had been relegated (if broached at all) by earlier writers. This new rhetoric of sexuality enabled critical conversations about who had sex, when in life they had it, and how it signified. Whether liberating or repressive, sexuality became a potential force for female