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Mina Shum's Double Happiness -- PART II: TRANSFORMATIONS THROUGH THE SENSUAL -- 4. To Make Sense of Differences: Communities, Texts, and Bodies in Shirley Geok-lin Lim's Among the White Moon Faces -- 5. 'Some Memories Live Only on Your Tongue': Recalling Tastes, Reclaiming Desire in Amy Tan's The Kitchen God's Wife -- 6. 'Each Story Brief and Sad and Marvellous': Multiple Voices in Wayson Choy's The Jade Peony -- PART III: INVISIBLE MINORITIES IN ASIAN AMERICA -- 7. 'Never Again Be the Yvonne of Yesterday': Personal and Collective Loss in Cecilia Brainard's When the Rainbow Goddess Wept -- 8. 'Thrumming Songs of Ecstasy': Female Voices in Hiromi Goto's Chorus of Mushrooms -- 9. 'On the Fence That Was Never Finished': Borderline Filipino Existence in Bino Realuyo's The Umbrella Country -- Afterword -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

Examining nine Asian Canadian and Asian American narratives, Eleanor Ty explores how authors empower themselves, represent differences, and re-script their identities as 'visible minorities' within the ideological, imaginative, and discursive space given to them by dominant culture. In various ways, Asian North Americans negotiate daily with 'birthmarks,' their shared physical features marking them legally, socially, and culturally as visible outsiders, and paradoxically, as invisible to mainstream history and culture. Ty argues that writers such as Denise Chong, Shirley Geok-lin Lim, and Wayson Choy recast the marks of their bodies and challenge common perceptions of difference based on the sights, smells, dress, and other characteristics of their hyphenated lives. Others, like filmmaker Mina Shum and writers Bienvenido Santos and Hiromi Goto, challenge the means by which Asian North American subjects are represented and constructed in the media and in everyday language. Through close readings grounded in the socio-historical context of each work, Ty studies the techniques of various authors and filmmakers in their meeting of the gaze of dominant culture and their response to the assumptions and meanings commonly associated with Orientalized, visible bodies.
