

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456433603321
Autore	Fabian Ann
Titolo	The unvarnished truth [[electronic resource] ] : personal narratives in nineteenth-century America // Ann Fabian
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2000
ISBN	1-283-30390-6 9786613303905 0-585-27413-4 0-520-92803-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (271 p.)
Disciplina	920.073
Soggetti	Autobiography Poor - United States Electronic books. United States History 19th century Biography
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. 177-246) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- List of Illustrations -- Preface -- Introduction -- CHAPTER ONE. Beggars -- CHAPTER TWO. Convicts -- CHAPTER THREE. Slaves -- CHAPTER FOUR. Prisoners of War -- EPILOGUE. Lovers, Farm Wives, and Tramps -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The practice of selling one's tale of woe to make a buck has long been a part of American culture. The Unvarnished Truth: Personal Narratives in Nineteenth-Century America is a powerful cultural history of how ordinary Americans crafted and sold their stories of hardship and calamity during the nineteenth century. Ann Fabian examines the tales of beggars, convicts, ex-slaves, prisoners of the Confederacy, and others to explore cultural authority, truth-telling, and the nature of print media as the country was shifting to a market economy. This well-crafted book describes the fascinating controversies surrounding these little-read tales and returns them to the social worlds where they were produced. Drawing on an enormous number of personal narratives-accounts of mostly poor, suffering, and often uneducated Americans-The Unvarnished Truth analyzes a long-ignored tradition in

popular literature. Historians have treated the spread of literacy and the growth of print culture as a chapter in the democratization of refinement, but these tales suggest that this was not always the case. Producing stories that purported to be the plain, unvarnished truth, poor men and women edged their way onto the cultural stage, using storytelling strategies far older than those relying on a Renaissance sense of refinement and polish. This book introduces a unique collection of tales to explore the nature of truth, authenticity, and representation.

---