1. Record Nr. UNINA9910458456003321 Autore Barnes Elizabeth <1959-> **Titolo** Love's whipping boy [[electronic resource]]: violence & sentimentality in the American imagination / / Elizabeth Barnes Chapel Hill [N.C.], : University of North Carolina Press, 2011 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-4696-0334-9 0-8078-7796-4 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (222 p.) Disciplina 813/.309353 Soggetti American fiction - 19th century - History and criticism Violence in literature Empathy in literature Sentimentalism in literature National characteristics, American, 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

Introduction -- Wieland, familicide, and the suffering father -Melville's fraternal melancholies -- Fathers of violence: Frederick
Douglass, John Brown, and the radical reproduction of sensibility --

The death of boyhood and the making of Little women.

Sommario/riassunto Working to reconcile the Christian dictum to ""love one's neighbor as oneself"" with evidence of U.S. sociopolitical aggression, including

slavery, corporal punishment of children, and Indian removal, Elizabeth Barnes focuses her attention on aggressors--rather than the weak or abused--to suggest ways of understanding paradoxical relationships between empathy, violence, and religion that took hold so strongly in nineteenth-century American culture.Looking at works by Herman Melville, Frederick Douglass, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Louisa May

Alcott, among others, Barnes shows how violence