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Autore	Krupat Arnold
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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- List of Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Oral Performances (i) -- 2. Oral Performances (ii) -- 3. Authors and Writers -- 4. Elegy in the "Native American Renaissance" and After -- Appendix: Best Texts of the Speeches Considered in Chapter 2 -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	"Surveys the traditions of Native American elegiac expression over several centuries. Krupat covers a variety of oral performances of loss and renewal, including the Condolence Rites of the Iroquois and the memorial ceremony of the Tlingit people known as koo'eex, examining as well a number of Ghost Dance songs, which have been reinterpreted in culturally specific ways by many different tribal nations. Krupat treats elegiac "farewell" speeches of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in considerable detail, and comments on retrospective autobiographies

by Black Hawk and Black Elk. Among contemporary Native writers, he looks at elegiac work by Linda Hogan, N. Scott Momaday, Gerald Vizenor, Sherman Alexie, Maurice Kenny, and Ralph Salisbury, among others. Despite differences of language and culture, he finds that death and loss are consistently felt by Native peoples both personally and socially: someone who had contributed to the People's well-being was now gone. Native American elegiac expression offered mourners consolation so that they might overcome their grief and renew their will to sustain communal life"--
