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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Sentimentalism and its discontents in the eighteenth-century novel: Fielding, Richardson and Sterne: "There was more of pleasantry in the conceit, of seeing how an ass would eat a macaroon than of benevolence in giving him one" -- Sentimentalism and its discontents in eighteenth-century drama: Goldsmith and Sheridan: "Humanity, sir, is a jewel. I love humanity" -- Dickens and nineteenth-century drama: "We would indict our very dreams" -- The early novels: "Everything in our lives, whether of good or evil, affects us most by contrasts" -- The later novels: "What the waves were always saying" -- Conclusion the afterlife of sentimentalism: "Who will write the history of tears?"
Sommario/riassunto	Dickens and the Sentimental Tradition is a timely study of the sentimental in Dickens novels, which places them in the context of the tradition of Fielding, Richardson, Sterne, Goldsmith, Sheridan and Lamb. This study re-evaluates Dickens' presentation of emotion first within the eighteenth-century tradition and then within the dissimilar nineteenth-century tradition as part of a complex literary heritage that enables him to critique nineteenth-century society. The book sheds light on the construction of feelings and of the good heart, ideas which resonate with current critical debates about literary

affect. Sentimentalism, as the text demonstrates, is crucial to understanding fully the achievement of Dickens and his contemporaries.
