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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [173]-191) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: uncovering the life of a blues woman -- Beyond the contraband camps: Black Chattanooga from the Civil War to 1880 -- The freest town on the map: Black migration to new south Chattanooga -- The empress's playground: Bessie Smith and Black childhood in the urban South -- Life on Big Ninth Street: the emerging blues culture in Chattanooga -- An empress in vaudeville: Bessie Smith on the theater circuit.