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Collana	Palgrave Studies in Literature, Science and Medicine, , 2634-6443
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Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction: Scorpions in the Mind -- 2. Vigilia and the Science of the Mind in William Godwin's Caleb Williams and Charles Brockden Brown's Edgar Huntly, or Memories of a Sleepwalker -- 3. Intellectual Monomania and Enthusiasm in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and Mary Hays's Memoirs of Emma Courtney -- 4. The Stings of Love: Erotomania and Nymphomania in John Keats's Isabella, or The Pot of Basil and Charlotte Dacre's The Passions -- 5. Revolutiana and the Sublime in George Gleig's Subaltern, Lord Byron's Siege of Corinth, and Joanna Baillie's Count Basil -- 6. Ideality and Art in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" and Edgar Allan Poe's "Berenice" and "The Tell-Tale Heart" -- 7. Coda: From Scorpions to Spiders, A.S. Byatt's Possession.
Sommario/riassunto	Most of us have, at one time, been obsessed with something, but how did obsession become a mental illness? This book examines literary, medical, and philosophical texts to argue that what we call obsession became a disease in the Romantic era and reflects the era's anxieties.

Using a number of literary texts, some well-known (like Mary Shelley's 1818 Frankenstein and Edgar Allan Poe's 1843 "The Tell Tale Heart") and some not (like Charlotte Dacre's 1811 The Passions and Charles Brockden Brown's 1787 Edgar Huntly), the book looks at "vigilia", an overly intense curiosity, "intellectual monomania", an obsession with study, "nymphomania" and "erotomania", gendered forms of desire, "revolutiana", an obsession with sublime violence and military service, and "ideality," an obsession with an idea. The coda argues that traces of these Romantic constructs can be seen in popular accounts of obsession today. .
