Record Nr. UNINA9910778353803321
Titolo "After thirty falls" [[electronic r

"After thirty falls" [[electronic resource]]: new essays on John Berryman

// edited by Philip Coleman, Philip McGowan; with a preface by

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Pubbl/distr/stampa Amsterdam;; New York, NY,: Rodopi, 2007

ISBN 1-282-26576-8

9786612265761 94-012-0452-7 1-4356-1293-0

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (xviii, 290 pages : music)

Collana DQR studies in literature ; ; 38

Altri autori (Persone) ColemanPhilip

McGowanPhilip <1969->

Disciplina 811.54

Soggetti Poets, American

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.

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Sommario/riassunto

Prefaced by an account of the early days of Berryman studies by bibliographer and scholar Richard J. Kelly, "After thirty Falls" is the first collection of essays to be published on the American poet John Berryman (1914-1972) in over a decade. The book seeks to provoke new interest in this important figure with a group of original essays and appraisals by scholars from Ireland, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and the United States. Exploring such areas as the poet's engagements with Shakespeare and the American sonnet tradition, his use of the Trickster figure and the idea of performance in his poetics, it expands the interpretive framework by which Berryman may be evaluated and studied, and it will be of interest to students of modern American poetry at all levels. What makes the collection particularly valuable is its inclusion of previously unpublished material – including a translation of a poem by Catullus and excerpts from the poet's detailed notes on the life of Christ – thereby providing new contexts for future assessments of Berryman's contribution to the development of poetry, poetics, and the relationship between scholarship and other forms of writing in the twentieth century.