Record Nr. UNINA9910780364703321 Autore Browder Laura <1963-> Titolo Slippery characters [[electronic resource]]: ethnic impersonators and American identities / / Laura Browder Chapel Hill,: University of North Carolina Press, c2000 Pubbl/distr/stampa 979-88-908708-2-7 **ISBN** 0-8078-6060-3 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (326 p.) Collana Cultural studies of the United States Disciplina 810.9/492 American prose literature - History and criticism Soggetti Autobiography Literary forgeries and mystifications - History Impostors and imposture in literature Difference (Psychology) in literature Identity (Psychology) in literature Passing (Identity) in literature Group identity in literature Ethnic groups in literature Impersonation in literature Ethnicity in literature Self in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Includes bibliographical references (p. [293]-304) and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Acknowledgments: Introduction: 1. Slave Narratives and the Problem of Authenticity: 2. Staged Ethnicities: Laying the Groundwork for Ethnic Impersonator Autobiographies; 3. Writing American: California Novels of Brown People and White Nationhood: 4. One Hundred Percent American: How a Slave, a Janitor, and a Former Klansman Escaped Racial Categories by Becoming Indians; 5. The Immigrant's Answer to Horatio Alger; 6. Passing As Poor: Class Imposture in Depression

America; 7. Postwar Blackface: How Middle-Class White Americans

8. To Pass Is To Survive: Danny Santiago's Famous All Over Town

Became Authentic through Blackness

Conclusion: Rewriting the Ethnic Autobiography; Notes; Bibliography; Index

Sommario/riassunto

In the 1920's, black janitor Sylvester Long reinvented himself as Chief Buffalo Child Long Lance, and Elizabeth Stern, the native-born daughter of a German Lutheran and a Welsh Baptist, authored the immigrant's narrative I Am a Woman--and a Jew; in the 1990's, Asa Carter, George Wallace's former speechwriter, produced the fake Cherokee autobiography, The Education of Little Tree. While striking, these examples of what Laura Browder calls ethnic impersonator autobiographies are by no means singular. Over the past 150 years, a number of American authors have left behind unwanted