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Autore	Reiss Benjamin
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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- FIGURES -- AckrunvZedgments -- Introduction: The Dark Subject -- 1. DEATH AND DYING -- 1. Possession -- 2. The Celebrated Curiosity -- 3. Private Acts, Public Memories -- 4. Sacred and Profane -- 5. Culture Wars -- 6. Love, Automata, and India Rubber -- 7. Spectacle -- II. RESURRECTION -- 8. Authenticity and Commodity -- 9. Exposure and Mastery -- 10. Erasure -- III. LIFE -- 11. A Speculative Biography -- Note to the 2010 Printing -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Reiss uses P. T. Barnum's Joice Heth hoax to examine the contours of race relations in the antebellum North. Barnum's first exhibit as a showman, Heth was an elderly enslaved woman said to be the 161-year-old former nurse of the infant George Washington. Seizing upon the novelty, the newly emerging commercial press turned her act--and especially her death--into one of the first media spectacles in American history.

