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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction : writing the accident -- The insurance of the real : William Dean Howells -- Aimless battles : Stephen Crane -- Detecting "absolute chance" : Charles Peirce, Anna Katharine Green -- The feminization of chance : Edith Wharton, Crystal Eastman -- Performing the accident on purpose : Theodore Dreiser, James Cain.
Sommario/riassunto	This book argues that language and literature actively produced chance in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by categorizing injuries and losses as innocent of design. Automobile collisions and occupational injuries became "car accidents" and "industrial accidents." During the post-Civil War period of racial, ethnic, and class-based hostility, chance was an abstract enemy against which society might unite. By producing chance, novels by William Dean Howells, Stephen Crane, Anna Katharine Green, Edith Wharton, Theodore Dreiser, and James Cain documented and helped establish new modes of collective interdependence. Chance here is connected not with the competitive individualism of the Gilded Age, but with important progressive and social democratic reforms, including developments in insurance, which had long employed accident narratives to shape its own "mutual

society." Accident Society reveals the extent to which American collectivity has depended—and continues to depend—on the literary production of chance.

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