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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction An Offering . . . Can We Talk? -- Part One Consciousness: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina -- 1. Condoleezza Rice, W. E . B. Du Bois, and Double Consciousness -- 2. Hurricane Katrina and Historical Memory -- Part Two Spirit: The 9/11 Attacks -- 3. The 9/11 Attacks and Max Weber -- 4. Moments of G race/Grace Undermined -- Part Three Labor: The Abu Ghraib Prison Abuses -- 5. Karl Marx and Alienation -- 6. Looking for Species Being -- Part Four Body: The Columbine School Shootings -- 7. Émile Durkheim and Embodiment in the Age of the Internet -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In this lively and provocative book, two feminist public sociologists turn to classical social thinkers—W. E. B. Du Bois, Max Weber, Karl Marx, and Émile Durkheim—to understand a series of twenty-first century social traumas, including the massacre at Columbine High School, the 9/11 attacks, the torture at Abu Ghraib prison, and Hurricane Katrina. Each event was overwhelming in its own right, while the relentless pace at which they occurred made it nearly impossible to absorb and interpret them in any but the most superficial ways. Yet, each uncovered social problems that cry out for our understanding and remediation. In When the Center Is on Fire, Becky Thompson and Diane Harriford assert that classical social theorists grappled with the human condition in ways that remain profoundly relevant. They show, for example, that the loss

of "double consciousness" that Du Bois identified in African Americans enabled political elites to turn a blind eye to the poverty and vulnerability of many of New Orleans's citizens. The authors' compelling, sometimes irreverent, often searing interpretations make this book essential reading for students, activists, generations X, Y, and Z, and everybody bored by the 6 o'clock news.
