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Autore	Balaam Peter <1963-, >
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Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Title; Copyright; Contents; Figures; Acknowledgments; Introduction: "Misery's Mathematics"; 1 "The Laws of Our Learning": Emerson's Grief and the Geological Principles of Loss; 2 Playing with Water: Thrill and Theodicy in The Wide, Wide World; 3 Representing Grief, Mourning Representation: Melville's Piazza Tales; Afterword: Soldering the Abyss: The Possibilities of Compensation; Notes; Works Cited; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This book reveals the strain of a moment in American cultural history that led several remarkable writers -- including Emerson, Warner, and Melville -- to render the stark rupture of loss in innovative ways. Pushing Protestant culture's sense of loss into secular terrain, these three key writers rejected Calvinist and sentimental models of bereavement, creating instead the compensations of a mature American literature whose 'originality' stemmed from its capacity to mourn the loss of a common culture and, through such mourning, to assent to new social and cultural realities. Balaam locates

