

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910784130403321
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Titolo	Men beyond desire [[electronic resource]] : manhood, sex, and violation in American literature // David Greven
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Palgrave Macmillan, 2005
ISBN	1-281-36789-3 9786611367893 1-4039-7711-9
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XII, 294 p.)
Disciplina	810.9/353
Soggetti	American literature - 19th century - History and criticism Masculinity in literature Social isolation in literature Self-control in literature Chastity in literature Sex role in literature Violence in literature Desire in literature Sex in literature Men in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [227]-286) and index.
Sommario/riassunto	This book explores the construction of male sexuality in nineteenth-century American literature and comes up with some startling findings. Far from desiring heterosexual sex and wishing to bond with other men through fraternity, the male protagonists of classic American literature mainly want to be left alone. Greven makes the claim that American men, eschewing both marriage and male friendship, strive to remain emotionally and sexually inviolate. Examining the work of traditional authors - Hawthorne, Poe, Melville, Cooper, Irving, Stowe - Greven discovers highly untraditional and transgressive representations of desire and sexuality. Objects of desire from both women and other

men, the inviolate males discussed in this study overturn established gendered and sexual categories, just as this study overturns archetypal assumptions about American manhood and American literature.
