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Soggetti	Commonwealth fiction (English) - 20th century - History and criticism Banality (Philosophy) in literature Place (Philosophy) in literature Narration (Rhetoric) Literature and society - Commonwealth countries - History - 20th century
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: poetics of the prosaic -- James Joyce and the banality of refusal -- Katherine Mansfield and the fragility of Pakeha boredom -- The dailiness of trauma and liberation in Zoe Wicomb -- Amit Chaudhuri and the materiality of the mundane -- Epilogue: The uneventful.
Sommario/riassunto	Everyday life in the far outposts of empire can be static, empty of the excitement of progress. A pervading sense of banality and boredom are, therefore, common elements of the daily experience for people living on the colonial periphery. Saikat Majumdar suggests that this impoverished affective experience of colonial modernity significantly shapes the innovative aesthetics of modernist fiction. Prose of the World explores the global life of this narrative aesthetic, from late-colonial modernism to the present day, focusing on a writer each from Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, and India. Ranging from James Joyce's deflated epiphanies to Amit Chaudhuri's disavowal of the grand spectacle of postcolonial national allegories, Majumdar foregrounds the banal as a key instinct of modern and contemporary fiction-one that nevertheless remains submerged because of its antithetical relation to

literature's intuitive function to engage or excite. Majumdar asks us to rethink the assumption that banality merely indicates an aesthetic failure. If narrative is traditionally enabled by the tremor, velocity, and excitement of the event, the historical and affective lack implied by the banal produces a narrative force that is radically new precisely because it suspends the conventional impulses of narration.
