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Autore Brooks Joanna <1971->

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America's first immigrants / / Joanna Brooks

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and the story of why we left -- Murder the brother who killed the tree : fratricide and the story of deforestation -- Sisters and a beaver hat : desire and the story of colonial commodity culture -- To sink it in the lonesome sea : betrayal and the story of indentured servitude --

Seduction of the house carpenter's wife: abandonment and the story of

colonial -- Migration -- Epilogue: ballad of the laboring poor.

Sommario/riassunto Joanna Brooks reveals the harsh realities behind seventeenth- and

eighteenth-century working-class English emigration-and dismantles the idea that these immigrants were drawn to America as a land of opportunity. Brooks follows American folk ballads back across the Atlantic, uncovering an archaeology of the worldviews of America's earliest immigrants and a haunting historical perspective on the ancestors we thought we knew.