

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786804703321
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Titolo	Sentimental materialism : gender, commodity culture, and nineteenth-century American literature // Lori Merish
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Durham, NC : , : Duke University Press, , 2000
ISBN	0-8223-7796-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (401 p.)
Collana	New Americanists
Disciplina	305.42/0973/09034
Soggetti	Women - United States - Social life and customs - 19th century Women consumers - United States - History - 19th century Sex role - United States - History - 19th century Material culture - United States - History - 19th century Women in literature Material culture 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 (pages [365]-382) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: The Forms of Cultured Feeling -- ; 1. Embodying Gender: Sentimental Materialism in the New Republic -- ; 2. Gender, Domesticity, and Consumption in the 1830s: Caroline Kirkland, Catharine Sedgwick, and the Feminization of American Consumerism -- ; 3. Sentimental Consumption: Harriet Beecher Stowe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and the Aesthetics of Middle-Class Ownership -- ; 4. Domesticating "Blackness": Harret Jacobs, Sojourner Truth, and the Decommmodification of the Black Female Body -- ; 5. Fashioning a Free Self: Consumption, Politics, and Power in the Writings of Elizabeth Keckley and Frances Harper -- ; 6. Not "Just a Cigar": Commodity Culture and the Construction of Imperial Manhood.
Sommario/riassunto	In Sentimental Materialism Lori Merish considers the intricate relationship between consumption and womanhood in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Taking as her starting point a diversity of cultural artifacts—from domestic fiction and philosophical treatises to advice literature and cigars—Merish explores the symbolic functions they served and finds that consumption evolved into a form of personal expressiveness that indicated not only a woman's wealth

and taste but also her race, class, morality, and civic values. The discursive production of this new subjectivity—the feminine consumer—was remarkably influential, helping to shape American capitalism, culture, and nation building. The phenomenon of female consumption was capitalism’s complement to male production: It created what Merish calls the “Other Protestant Ethic,” a feminine and sentimental counterpart to Max Weber’s ethic of hard work, economic rationality, and self-control. In addition, driven by the culture’s effort to civilize the “cannibalistic” practices of ethnic, class, and national otherness, appropriate female consumerism, marked by taste and refinement, identified certain women and their families as proper citizens of the United States. The public nature of consumption, however, had curiously conflicting effects: While the achievement of cultured material circumstances facilitated women’s civic agency, it also reinforced stereotypes of domestic womanhood. Sentimental Materialism’s inquiry into middle-class consumption and accompanying ideals of womanhood will appeal to readers in a variety of disciplines, including American studies, cultural studies, feminist theory, and cultural history.
