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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The presence of unknown soldiers and imaginary spirits : viewing national grief and trauma in the Civil War -- Recognizing Lincoln : portrait photography and the physiognomy of national character -- Appropriating the healthy child : the child that toileth not and Progressive Era child labor photography -- Managing the magnitude of the Great Depression : viewers respond to FSA photography.
Sommario/riassunto	Photography became a dominant medium in cultural life starting in the late 19th century. As it happened, viewers increasingly used their reactions to photographs to comment on and debate public issues as vital as war, national identity, and citizenship. Cara A. Finnegan analyzes a wealth of newspaper and magazine articles, letters to the editor, trial testimony, books, and speeches produced by viewers in response to specific photos they encountered in public. From the portrait of a young Lincoln to images of child labourers and Depression-era hardship, Finnegan treats the photograph as a locus for viewer engagement and constructs a history of photography's viewers that shows how Americans used words about images to participate in the politics of their day.