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Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-Title; Title; Copyright; Dedication; Contents; List of Appendix Tables; Acknowledgments; 1 The Case of the Missing Detectives; or, Reassessing the American Contribution to Detective Fiction; Introduction; Construing the absence of the dime novel detective; Who is the American dime novel detective?; Disrupting existing narratives about detective fiction; Some organizing principles; 2 The Happy-Ending Deception; or, Uncovering the Subversive Potential of Detective Dime Novels; Introduction; The primacy of endings: a theoretical excursion

Methods and trends: (de)coding the dime novel detective  
A shadowy detective and a police captain: gender bending and genre blending;  
Forced marriages, faked weddings, and gendered problems of closure;  
The detectives that don't work out: death and corruption in the  
detective position; A Terrible Ending: an unambiguous antidote to  
happy endings; In conclusion ...; 3 The Case of the Contaminated Icon;  
or, Allan Pinkerton's Dangerous Detective Doubles; Introduction; Allan  
Pinkerton's iconography: all-seeing eyes, Civil War spies, and the  
Underground Railroad  
Pinkerton's generic breadth: classical, hardboiled, police, and diverse  
detectives  
Contamination and the problems of deep cover; Outlaw  
doubling lite: the humorous logic of bodily substitution; Outlaw  
doubling darkened through the prism of graphic torture; Conclusion; 4  
Playing with the Ace of Hearts; or, Mentorship, Sportsmanship, and  
Nick Carter's Epistemological Dilemmas; Introduction; Nick Carter's  
school for detectives: mentorship and fair play; The mediating power of  
games; The ethical and erotic mediations of the femme fatale; Proto-  
postmodern epistemological investigations; Conclusion  
5 Faulkner, Twain, and the Legacy of Dime Novel  
Detectives  
Introduction; White elephants, doubled barrels, and Mark  
Twain's detective obsessions; Chasing the unknown gambit; or,  
mentorship and games in Nick Carter and Gavin Stevens; Conclusion; 6  
Conclusions and Directions for Future Research; Appendix Tables;  
Notes; References; Index

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Sommario/riassunto

This book reveals subversive representations of gender, race and class in detective dime novels (1860-1915), arguing that inherent tensions between subversive and conservative impulses—theorized as contamination and containment—explain detective fiction's ongoing popular appeal to readers and to writers such as Twain and Faulkner.

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