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Titolo	Quiet testimony [[electronic resource]] : a theory of witnessing from nineteenth-century American literature // Shari Goldberg
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (315 p.)
Disciplina	810.9/382
Soggetti	American literature - 19th century - History and criticism Witness bearing (Christianity) in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Arriving at quiet -- Emerson: testimony without representation -- Douglass: testimony without identity -- Melville: testimony without voice -- James: testimony without life -- Conclusion: Staying quiet.
Sommario/riassunto	The nineteenth century was a time of extraordinary attunement to the unspoken, the elusively present, and the subtly haunting. Quiet Testimony finds in such attunement a valuable rethinking of what it means to encounter the truth. It argues that four key writers—Emerson, Douglass, Melville, and Henry James—open up the domain of the witness by articulating quietude’s claim on the clamoring world. The premise of quiet testimony responds to urgent questions in critical theory and human rights. Emerson is brought into conversation with Levinas, and Douglass is considered alongside Agamben. Yet the book is steeped in the intellectual climate of the nineteenth century, in which speech and meaning might exceed the bounds of the recognized human subject. In this context, Melville’s characters could read the weather, and James’s could spend an evening with dead companions. By following the path by which ostensibly unremarkable entities come to voice, Quiet Testimony suggests new configurations for ethics, politics,

and the literary.
