

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910797588903321
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Titolo	Walking shadows : reflections on the American fantastic and the American grotesque from Washington Irving to the postmodern era // by Ib Johansen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston : , : Brill Rodopi c2015
ISBN	90-04-30371-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (512 p.)
Collana	Costerus, , 0165-9618 ; ; new series, v. 211
Disciplina	770.92
Soggetti	Grotesque in literature Fantasy fiction, American Gothic fiction (Literary genre), American
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	Preliminary Material -- Introduction: Theorizing the American Fantastic and the American Grotesque -- Todorov, Bakhtin, and Other Theorists -- Rip Van Winkle's Fall into History: Framing Washington Irving's Tale -- Wrestling with God in the Devil's Territories: Hawthorne and the Fantastic -- The Crowing of the Cock: Melville's Fantastic Turn in "Cock-A-Doodle-Do!" -- Convolutd Spaces: The Carnavalesque-Grotesque in Edgar Allan Poe's "King Pest" -- The Apocalyptic-Grotesque in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death" -- In the Empire of Signs: Edgar Allan Poe's "The Black Cat" and the Pure Fantastic -- Spectres of America: Ghostliness in Henry James' The Turn of the Screw -- Commemorating the Black and Angry Dead in Toni Morrison's Beloved -- Modernism and Its Discontents: H.P. Lovecraft's Poetics of Horror -- On the Byways of Modernism: Nathanael West and Patricia Highsmith -- Inside the American Nightmare: Bret Easton Ellis' American Psycho and Its Cultural Context -- Bret Easton Ellis as an Example of Postmodernist Fiction, the Film Medium and Its Side-Effects -- The Incredible Lightness of Being -- Epilogue: Conclusions -- Appendix on Shadows -- Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Walking Shadows focuses on the American fantastic and the American

grotesque, attempting in this manner for the first time to establish an overview of and a theoretical approach to two literary modes that have often been regarded as essential to an understanding of the American cultural canon. The central importance of these two literary forms has been pointed out earlier by important theorists such as Stanley Cavell, David Reynolds, and William Van O'Connor. A number of literary works, from the beginning of the nineteenth to the end of the twentieth centuries, are taken up in order to illustrate the inherent links or family resemblances between the two modes, with special reference to the way in which a Bakhtinian reading may facilitate our appreciation of their status within the canon. These excursions into the House of Fantastic and Grotesque Fiction may be of interest not only to hardcore aficionados, but also to philosophically minded readers in general, in particular perhaps to those who have paid acute attention to debates on late twentieth and early twenty-first century post-structuralism and deconstruction (where the classic positions of Foucault, Derrida, and others still appear to be relevant).
