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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 183-203) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Dramatizing distress: sentimental culture, melodrama, and nineteenth-century reform for the deaf/dumb and blind -- Spectacular benevolence: theatricalizing the war on polio with the national foundation for infantile paralysis (NFIP), 1934-1945 -- Wheelchairs and one-liners: televising need in the charity telethon -- Acts of conspicuous compassion: charity in the reality TV era: Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.
Sommario/riassunto	Illuminates the relationship between performance and the American charity movement.