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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Emotion -- History -- Universals and particulars -- Depth -- Beholding.
Sommario/riassunto	<P>Why does literature matter? What is its human value? Historical approaches to literature have for several decades prevailed over the idea that literary works can deepen our understanding of fundamental questions of existence. This book re-affirms literature's existential value by developing a new critical vocabulary for thinking about literature's human meaningfulness. It puts this vocabulary into practice through close reading of a wide range of texts, from <I>The Second Wakefield Shepherds' Play</I> to Mohsin Hamid's <I>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</I>. Individual chapters discuss: </P><U