

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910813957803321
Autore	Kernan Alvin B
Titolo	The fruited plain [[electronic resource] ] : fables for a postmodern democracy / / Alvin Kernan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2002
ISBN	1-281-72172-7 9786611721725 0-300-12834-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource (x, 260 p.))
Disciplina	813/.6
Soggetti	Humorous stories, American Domestic fiction, American Satire, American Fables, American
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: Preface ix -- ONE -- Merry Xmas from the Joads 1 -- TWO -- Majoring in Deconstruction 19 -- THREE -- Religion USA 50 -- FOUR -- Art Lets It All Hang Out 75 -- FIVE -- The Politics Gene 98 -- SIX -- Klutz-Brightgrin H.R. 1984- -- The John Quincy Thud On-Line Biography -- of Great Americans 125 -- SEVEN -- Poshpenny v. Lone Tree State 153 -- EIGHT -- A Long Way Up the Arroyo 178 -- NINE -- Operation Gulliver 205 -- TEN -- Virtual America 227 -- Selected Items from the On-Line Biography -- of Great Americans 251.
Sommario/riassunto	The beleaguered Joad family of Steinbeck's <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> struggled in an era of disappointed dreams and empty pockets. But how might the grandchildren of that Dust Bowl generation fare in today's more promising times? In this boisterously inventive book Alvin Kernan sends various descendants of the original Joad family on a postmodern journey out of California and into the excesses of American culture at the beginning of the twenty-first century. The experiences of today's Joads are as hilarious as they are discomfiting: they encounter in Kernan's America a world of democracy gone haywire and social

institutions in perplexing disarray. In ten satiric episodes, Kernan visits virtually every important American institution—the family, education, religion, art, the military, law courts, sex, science and medicine, politics, and not least television and its advertisements. Unsparing with his barbs, he reveals both the fools and the knaves among us. Kernan's modern-day Joads find themselves in a distorted world where a surplus of democracy not only fails to free its inhabitants but also makes them vulnerable to the machinations of greedy and unscrupulous exploiters. Echoing the voices of such other provocative wits as Evelyn Waugh and Tom Wolfe, Kernan will make you laugh at the absurdity of American culture and—in all likelihood—at yourself.

---