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Laura Browder

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Nota di contenuto

Acknowledgments; Introduction; 1. Slave Narratives and the Problem of Authenticity; 2. Staged Ethnicities: Laying the Groundwork for Ethnic Impersonator Autobiographies; 3. Writing American: California Novels of Brown People and White Nationhood; 4. One Hundred Percent American: How a Slave, a Janitor, and a Former Klansman Escaped Racial Categories by Becoming Indians; 5. The Immigrant's Answer to Horatio Alger; 6. Passing As Poor: Class Imposture in Depression America; 7. Postwar Blackface: How Middle-Class White Americans

Became Authentic through Blackness

8. To Pass Is To Survive: Danny Santiago's Famous All Over Town

Conclusion: Rewriting the Ethnic Autobiography; Notes; Bibliography; Index

Sommario/riassunto

In the 1920's, black janitor Sylvester Long reinvented himself as Chief Buffalo Child Long Lance, and Elizabeth Stern, the native-born daughter of a German Lutheran and a Welsh Baptist, authored the immigrant's narrative I Am a Woman--and a Jew; in the 1990's, Asa Carter, George Wallace's former speechwriter, produced the fake Cherokee autobiography, The Education of Little Tree. While striking, these examples of what Laura Browder calls ethnic impersonator autobiographies are by no means singular. Over the past 150 years, a number of American authors have left behind unwanted