

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910815480603321
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Titolo	Little strangers : portrayals of adoption and foster care in America, 1850-1929 // Claudia Nelson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bloomington, : Indiana University Press, c2003
ISBN	1-282-07206-4 9786612072062 0-253-10557-9 0-253-10980-9
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (225 p.)
Disciplina	362.73/4/0973
Soggetti	Adoption - United States - History Orphans - United States - History Adoption in literature
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	The 1850s and their echoes : two case studies -- Money talks : the displaced child, 1860-1885 -- Melodrama and the displaced child, 1886-1906 -- Metaphor and the displaced child, 1886-1906 -- Adoption and women, 1907-1918 -- Adoption up to date : the rhetoric of mass individuality, 1919-1929.
Sommario/riassunto	When Massachusetts passed America's first comprehensive adoption law in 1851, the usual motive for taking in an unrelated child was presumed to be the need for cheap labor. But by 1929 -- the first year that every state had an adoption law -- the adoptee's main function was seen as emotional. Little Strangers examines the representations of adoption and foster care produced over the intervening years. Claudia Nelson argues that adoption texts reflect changing attitudes toward many important social issues