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Sommario/riassunto	Using the "'the Negro Problem'" in African American literature as a point of departure, this book focuses on the profound impact that racism had on the literary imagination of black Americans, specifically those in the South. Although the South has been one of the most enduring sites of criticism in American Studies and in American literary history, Johnson argues that it is impossible to consider what the "'South'" and what "'southernness'" mean as cultural references without looking at how black women have contributed to and contested any unified definition of that region. Johnson challen