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Nota di contenuto	Foreword / Andrew Billingsley -- Preface and acknowledgments -- Introduction : signs of regeneration in African American women's literature -- part one. Slavery and abolitionism, freedom and Jim Crow America -- 1. Phillis Wheatley's seminaked body as symbol and metaphor -- 2. Harriet Jacobs's Incidents in the life of a slave girl : a Freudian reading of neurotic and sexed bodies -- 3. The maternal ideal : the journals of Charlotte Forten Grimké -- 4. Antiracist aesthetics : Jessie Fauset, Nella Larsen, Zora Neale Hurston, and Jim Crow America -- part two. A conflation of history, past and present -- 5. Maternal imprinting : Paule Marshall and the mother-daughter dyad -- 6. The phallic maternal : Alice Walker's novels of archetypal symbolism -- 7. Bodily evidence : Toni Morrison's demonic parody of racism and slavery -- Afterword.
Sommario/riassunto	Geneva Cobb Moore deftly combines literature, history, criticism, and theory in Maternal Metaphors of Power in African American Women's Literature by offering insight into the historical black experience from slavery to freedom as depicted in the literature of nine female writers across several centuries. Moore traces black women writers' creation of feminine and maternal metaphors of power in literature from the colonial era work of Phillis Wheatley to the postmodern work of Paule Marshall, Alice Walker, and Toni Morrison. Through their characters

Moore shows how these writers re-create the identity of black women and challenge existing rules shaping their subordinate status and behavior. Drawing on feminist, psychoanalytic, and other social science theory, Moore examines the maternal iconography and counter-hegemonic narratives by which these writers responded to oppressive conventions of race, gender, and authority. Moore grounds her account in studies of Phillis Wheatley, Harriet Jacobs, Charlotte Forten Grimké, Jessie Fauset, Nella Larsen, and Zora Neale Hurston. All these authors, she contends, wrote against invisibility and powerlessness by developing and cultivating a personal voice and an individual story of vulnerability, nurturing capacity, and agency that confounded prevailing notions of race and gender and called into question moral reform. In these nine writers' construction of feminine images--real and symbolic--Moore finds a shared sense of the historically significant role of black women in the liberation struggle during slavery, the Jim Crow period, and beyond.

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