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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 197-232) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- From Prohibition to Enjoyment -- The Decline of Paternal Authority -- Embracing the Image -- Shrinking Distances -- Interpretation under Duress -- The Appeal of Cynicism -- The Politics of Apathy -- A Missing Public World -- Explosions of Incivility, Aggressiveness, and Violence -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Winner of the 2004 Gary Olson Award for best book in cultural theory presented by JACExploring the emergence of a societal imperative to enjoy ourselves, Todd McGowan builds on the work of such theorists as Jacques Lacan, Slavoj Žižek, Joan Copjec, and Theresa Brennan to argue that we are in the midst of a large-scale transformation—a shift from a society oriented around prohibition (i.e., the notion that one cannot just do as one pleases) to one oriented around enjoyment. McGowan identifies many of the social ills of American culture today as symptoms of this transformation: the sense of disconnection, the increase in aggression and violence, widespread cynicism, political apathy, incivility, and loss of meaning. Discussing these various symptoms, he examines various texts from film, literature, popular culture, and everyday life, including Toni Morrison's Paradise, Tony Kushner's Angels in America, and such films as Dead Poets Society and Trigger Effect. Paradoxically, The End of Dissatisfaction? shows how the American cultural obsession with enjoying ourselves actually makes it more difficult to do so.

