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Autore	Weinstock Jeffrey Andrew
Titolo	Scare tactics [[electronic resource] ] : supernatural fiction by American women / / Jeffrey Andrew Weinstock
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Soggetti	American fiction - Women authors - History and criticism Supernatural in literature Gothic revival (Literature) - United States Ghost stories, American - History and criticism Horror tales, American - History and criticism Occultism in literature
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 199-217) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: The unacknowledged tradition -- The ghost in the parlor : Harriet Prescott Spofford, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Anna M. Hoyt, and Edith Wharton -- Queer haunting spaces : Madeline Yale Wynne and Elia Wilkinson Peattie -- Ghosts of progress : Alice Cary, Mary Noailles Murfree, Mary Austin, and Edith Wharton -- Familial ghosts : Louise Stockton, Olivia Howard Dunbar, Edith Wharton, Josephine Daskam Bacon, Elia Wilkinson Peattie, Georgia Wood Pangborn, and Mary E. Wilkins Freeman -- Ghosts of desire : Rose Terry Cooke, Alice Brown, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, and Helen Hull -- Ghostly returns : Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Gertrude Atherton, and Josephine Daskam Bacon -- Coda: The decline of the American female Gothic.
Sommario/riassunto	Scare Tactics identifies an important but overlooked tradition of supernatural writing by American women. Jeffrey Weinstock analyzes

this tradition as an essentially feminist attempt to imagine alternatives to a world of limited possibilities. In the process, he recovers the lives and works of authors who were important during their lifetimes and in the development of the American literary tradition, but who are not recognized today for their contributions. Between the end of the Civil War and roughly 1930, hundreds of uncanny tales were published by women in the periodical press and in books. These include stories by familiar figures such as Edith Wharton, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, as well as by authors almost wholly unknown to twenty-first-century readers, such as Josephine Dodge Bacon, Alice Brown, Emma Frances Dawson, and Harriet Prescott Spofford. Focusing on this tradition of female writing offers a corrective to the prevailing belief within American literary scholarship that the uncanny tale, exemplified by the literary productions of Irving, Poe, and Hawthorne, was displaced after the Civil War by literary realism. Beyond the simple existence of an unacknowledged tradition of uncanny literature by women, *Scare Tactics* makes a strong case that this body of literature should be read as a specifically feminist literary tradition. Especially intriguing, Weinstock demonstrates, is that women authors repeatedly used Gothic conventions to express discontentment with circumscribed roles for women creating types of political intervention connected to the broader sphere of women's rights activism. Paying attention to these overlooked authors helps us better understand not only the literary marketplace of their time, but also more familiar American Gothicists from Edgar Allan Poe to Shirley Jackson to Stephen King.

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