

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910827859903321
Autore	Raskin Jonah <1942->
Titolo	American scream : Allen Ginsberg's Howl and the making of the Beat Generation // Jonah Raskin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, 2004
ISBN	1-282-35827-8 9786612358272 0-520-93934-4 1-59734-463-X
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (324 p.)
Disciplina	811/.54
Soggetti	Literature and mental illness - United States - History - 20th century Poetry - Psychological aspects Mental illness in literature Beat generation
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	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- PREFACE -- CHAPTER ONE. Poetickall Bomshell -- CHAPTER TWO. Family Business -- CHAPTER THREE. Trilling-esque Sense of "Civilization" -- CHAPTER FOUR. Juvenescent Savagery -- CHAPTER FIVE. Just like Russia -- CHAPTER SIX. Ladies, We Are Going through Hell -- CHAPTER SEVEN. Another Coast's Apple for the Eye -- CHAPTER EIGHT. Mythological References -- CHAPTER NINE. Famous Authorhood -- CHAPTER TEN. This Fiction Named Allen Ginsberg -- CHAPTER ELEVEN. Best Minds -- Notes and Sources -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Written as a cultural weapon and a call to arms, Howl touched a raw nerve in Cold War America and has been controversial from the day it was first read aloud nearly fifty years ago. This first full critical and historical study of Howl brilliantly elucidates the nexus of politics and literature in which it was written and gives striking new portraits of Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, and William Burroughs. Drawing from newly released psychiatric reports on Ginsberg, from interviews with his psychiatrist, Dr. Philip Hicks, and from the poet's journals, American

Scream shows how Howl brought Ginsberg and the world out of the closet of a repressive society. It also gives the first full accounting of the literary figures-Eliot, Rimbaud, and Whitman-who influenced Howl, definitively placing it in the tradition of twentieth-century American poetry for the first time. As he follows the genesis and the evolution of Howl, Jonah Raskin constructs a vivid picture of a poet and an era. He illuminates the development of Beat poetry in New York and San Francisco in the 1950s--focusing on historic occasions such as the first reading of Howl at Six Gallery in San Francisco in 1955 and the obscenity trial over the poem's publication. He looks closely at Ginsberg's life, including his relationships with his parents, friends, and mentors, while he was writing the poem and uses this material to illuminate the themes of madness, nakedness, and secrecy that pervade Howl. A captivating look at the cultural climate of the Cold War and at a great American poet, American Scream finally tells the full story of Howl-a rousing manifesto for a generation and a classic of twentieth-century literature.

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