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Nota di contenuto	Illustrations -- Introduction -- PART I -- LITERARY MEMORY -- 1 Towards a Poetics of Mnemonic Strategy in Narrative Texts -- Testimonies: recourse to mental mnemonic resources -- Interlude: the testimony of Olaudah Equiano -- Palimpsests: recourse to manifest mnemonic resources -- PART II -- MNEMONIC FICTIONS OF THE BLACK ATLANTIC -- 2 Caryl Phillips, Cambridge -- The poetics of memory: the art of montage -- The politics of memory: empowering culture -- 3 David Dabydeen, A Harlot's Progress -- The poetics of memory: the art of ekphrasis -- The politics of memory: empowering the individual -- 4 Toni Morrison, Beloved -- The poetics of memory: the art of musicalization -- The politics of memory: empowering the collective -- Conclusion -- Appendix: Source Passages Adapted in Cambridge -- Bibliography -- Acknowledgements.
Sommario/riassunto	The Atlantic slave trade continues to haunt the cultural memories of Africa, Europe and the Americas. There is a prevailing desire to forget: While victims of the African diaspora tried to flee the sites of trauma, enlightened Westerners preferred to be oblivious to the discomfoting complicity between their enlightenment and chattel slavery. Recently, however, fiction writers have ventured to 're-member' the Black Atlantic. This book is concerned with how literature performs as

memory. It sets out to chart systematically the ways in which literature and memory intersect, and offers readings of three seminal Black Atlantic novels. Each reading illustrates a particular poetic strategy of accessing the past and presents a distinct political outlook on memory. Novelists may choose to write back to texts, images or music: Caryl Phillips's *Cambridge* brings together numerous fragments of slave narratives, travelogues and histories to shape a brilliant montage of long-forgotten texts. David Dabydeen's *A Harlot's Progress* approaches slavery through the gateway of paintings by William Hogarth, Sir Joshua Reynolds and J.M.W. Turner. Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, finally, is steeped in black music, from spirituals and blues to the art of John Coltrane. Beyond differences in poetic strategy, moreover, the novels paradigmatically reveal distinct ideologies: their politics of memory variously promote an encompassing transcultural sense of responsibility, an aestheticist 'creative amnesia', and the need to preserve a collective 'black' identity.

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