

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910964517603321
Autore	Miller J. Hillis (Joseph Hillis), <1928->
Titolo	The conflagration of community : fiction before and after Auschwitz / / J. Hillis Miller
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago ; ; London, : University of Chicago Press, 2011
ISBN	9786613242303 9781283242301 1283242303 9780226527239 0226527239
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (331 p.)
Disciplina	809.3/9358405318
Soggetti	Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in literature Literature, Modern - 20th century - History and criticism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Nancy contra Stevens -- 2. Foreshadowing's of Auschwitz in Kafka's Writings -- 3. The Breakdown of Community and the Disabling of Speech Acts in Kafka's The Trial -- 4. The Castle: No Mitsein, No Verifiable Interpretation -- Prologue: Community in Fiction after Auschwitz -- 5. Three Novels about the Shoah -- 6. Imre Kertész's Fatelessness: Fiction as Testimony -- 7. Morrison's Beloved -- Coda -- Notes -- Index of Names, Titles of Works, and Characters
Sommario/riassunto	"After Auschwitz to write even a single poem is barbaric." The Conflagration of Community challenges Theodor Adorno's famous statement about aesthetic production after the Holocaust, arguing for the possibility of literature to bear witness to extreme collective and personal experiences. J. Hillis Miller masterfully considers how novels about the Holocaust relate to fictions written before and after it, and uses theories of community from Jean-Luc Nancy and Derrida to explore the dissolution of community bonds in its wake. Miller juxtaposes readings of books about the Holocaust-Keneally's Schindler's List, McEwan's Black Dogs, Spiegelman's Maus, and

Kertész's *Fatelessness*-with Kafka's novels and Morrison's *Beloved*, asking what it means to think of texts as acts of testimony. Throughout, Miller questions the resonance between the difficulty of imagining, understanding, or remembering Auschwitz-a difficulty so often a theme in records of the Holocaust-and the exasperating resistance to clear, conclusive interpretation of these novels. *The Conflagration of Community* is an eloquent study of literature's value to fathoming the unfathomable.

---