

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910966984303321
Autore	Crain Caleb
Titolo	American sympathy : men, friendship, and literature in the new nation / / Caleb Crain
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2001
ISBN	9786611722845 9781281722843 1281722847 9780300133677 0300133677
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource (x, 310 p.)) : ill
Disciplina	810.9/352041
Soggetti	American literature - Male authors - History and criticism Men in literature American literature - 19th century - History and criticism American literature - 1783-1850 - History and criticism Male friendship - United States - History Male friendship in literature Sympathy in literature
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 (p. 271-305) and index.
Nota di contenuto	In the pear grove : the romance of Leander, Lorenzo, and Castalio -- The decomposition of Charles Brockden Brown : sympathy in Brown's letters -- The transformation, the self devoted, and the dead recalled : sympathy in Brown's fiction -- The unacknowledged tie : young Emerson and the love of men -- Too good to be believed : Emerson's "Friendship" and the Samaritans -- The heart ruled out : Melville's Palinode.
Sommario/riassunto	"A friend in history," Henry David Thoreau once wrote, "looks like some premature soul." And in the history of friendship in early America, Caleb Crain sees the soul of the nation's literature. In a sensitive analysis that weaves together literary criticism and historical narrative, Crain describes the strong friendships between men that supported

and inspired some of America's greatest writing--the Gothic novels of Charles Brockden Brown, the essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson, and the novels of Herman Melville. He traces the genealogy of these friendships through a series of stories. A dapper English spy inspires a Quaker boy to run away from home. Three Philadelphia gentlemen conduct a romance through diaries and letters in the 1780's. Flighty teenager Charles Brockden Brown metamorphoses into a horror novelist by treating his friends as his literary guinea pigs. Emerson exchanges glances with a Harvard classmate but sacrifices his crush on the altar of literature--a decision Margaret Fuller invites him to reconsider two decades later. Throughout this engaging book, Crain demonstrates the many ways in which the struggle to commit feelings to paper informed the shape and texture of American literature.
