

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910968832003321
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Titolo	On monsters : an unnatural history of our worst fears / / Stephen T. Asma
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford ; ; New York, : Oxford University Press, 2009 Oxford ; ; New York : , : Oxford University Press, , 2009
ISBN	9786613058683 9780199745777 0199745773 9781283058681 1283058685 9780199714513 0199714517
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 351 pages) : illustrations
Classificazione	PHI013000PSY031000SOC011000
Disciplina	398.24/54
Soggetti	Monsters
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [285]-333) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Extraordinary beings -- Ancient monsters. Alexander fights monsters in India ; Monsters are nature's playthings ; Hermaphrodites and man-headed oxen ; Monstrous desire -- Medieval monsters : messages from God. Biblical monsters ; Do monsters have souls? ; The monster killer ; Possessing demons and witches -- Scientific monsters : the book of nature is riddled with typos. Natural history, freaks, and nondescripts ; The medicalization of monsters ; Darwin's mutants -- Inner monsters : the psychological aspects. The art of human vulnerability : angst and horror ; Criminal monsters : psychopathology, aggression, and the malignant heart ; Torturers, terrorists, and zombies : the products of monstrous societies ; Future monsters : robots, mutants, and posthuman cyborgs.
Sommario/riassunto	Monsters. Real or imagined, literal or metaphorical, they have exerted a dread fascination on the human mind for many centuries. They attract and repel us, intrigue and terrify us, and in the process reveal something deeply important about the darker recesses of our collective

psyche. Stephen Asma's *On Monsters* is a wide-ranging cultural and conceptual history of monsters--how they have evolved over time, what functions they have served for us, and what shapes they are likely to take in the future. Asma begins with a letter from Alexander the Great in 326 B.C. detailing an encounter in India w
