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Nota di contenuto	Introduction : beyond "Rimbaud in a raincoat" -- Burroughs or Kerouac's Rimbaud : to be or not to be "literary" -- French poetic realist film in Kerouac's first bookmovie -- Kerouac's humanism : from Celine and Dostoevsky to Proust -- Burroughs' queer aesthetics : from Gide to Cocteau -- Looking back on Ginsberg's "Howl" from "Apollinaire's grave" -- The pitfalls of open secrecy : "Has nobody noticed St.-John Perse?" -- Burroughs' (anti)humanism : Saint Genet and the last lifeboat -- Burroughs, Michaux, and the future of literature -- Conclusion : a purloined genealogy.
Sommario/riassunto	"The Francophilia of the Beat circle in the New York of the mid-1940s is well known, as is the importance of the Beat Hotel in the Paris of the late 1950s and early 1960s, but how exactly did French literature and culture participate in the emergence of the Beat Generation? French modernism did much more than inspire its first major writers, it materially shaped their works, as this comparative study reveals

through close textual analysis of William Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac's appropriations of French literature and culture. Sometimes acknowledged, sometimes not, their appropriations take multiple forms, ranging from allusions, invocations and citations to adaptations and translations, and they involve a vast array of works, including the poetic realist films of Carne and Cocteau, the existentialist philosophy of Sartre, and the poems and novels of Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Proust, Gide, Apollinaire, St.-John Perse, Artaud, Celine, Genet and Michaux. While clarifying the extent of Burroughs, Ginsberg and Kerouac's engagements with French literature and culture, in-depth analysis of their textual appropriations emphasises differences in their views of literature, philosophy and politics, which help us understand the early Beat circle was divided from the start. The book's close-readings also transform our perception of Burroughs' cut-up practice, Kerouac's spontaneous prose, and Ginsberg's poetics of open secrecy."--Bloomsbury Publishing.
