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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Table of Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Glossary -- Introduction -- 1. The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin: The Story of a Successful Social Animal -- 2. Nepotism in Hawthorne's "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" -- 3. Biophilia in Thoreau's Walden -- 4. Bateman's Principle in "Song of Myself": Whitman Celebrates Male Ardency -- 5. Maladaptive Behavior and Auctorial Design: Huck Finn's Pap -- 6. Hell's Fury: Female Mate-Retention Strategies in Wharton's "Pomegranate Seed" and Ethan Frome -- 7. Male Reproductive Strategies in Sherwood Anderson's "The Untold Lie" -- 8. The Great Gatsby: An Unusual Case of Mate Poaching -- 9. Female Sexual Strategies in the Poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay -- 10. Philosophy and Fitness: Hemingway's "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" and The Sun Also Rises -- 11. Paternal Confidence in Zora Neale Hurston's "The Gilded Six-Bits" -- 12. The Role of the Arts in Male Courtship Display: Billy Collins's "Serenade" -- Conclusion -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The inaugural book in ASP's new Evolution, Cognition, and the Arts series, this collection of essays examines selected works in the American literary tradition from an evolutionary perspective. Using an interdisciplinary framework to pose new questions about long admired, much discussed texts, the collection as a whole provides an introduction to Darwinian literary critical methodology. Individual

essays feature a variety of figures-Benjamin Franklin to Billy Collins-targeting fitness-related issues ranging from sexual strategies and parental investment to cheating and deception. Attention is paid to the physical and social environments in which fictional characters are placed, including the influence of cultural-historical conditions on resource acquisition, status-building, competition, and reciprocity. Discussion throughout the volume makes connections to existing secondary comment, suggesting how Darwinian scrutiny can generate unexpected insights into long familiar works.
