Record Nr. UNINA9910458410803321 Autore Mossman Carol A. Titolo Writing with a vengeance: the Countess de Chabrillan's rise from prostitution / / Carol Mossman Toronto, Ontario; ; Buffalo, New York; ; London, England: , : Pubbl/distr/stampa University of Toronto Press, , 2009 ©2009 **ISBN** 1-4426-9719-9 1-4426-9777-6 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (210 p.) Collana University of Toronto Romance Series Disciplina 843/.8 Soggetti Women authors, French - 19th century Courtesans - France Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments --Illustrations -- Introduction -- Part One. Chabrillan's Contexts: Biographical, Historical, Literary -- 1. The Wages of Shame -- 2. Worlds Apart: Mapping Prostitution and the Demi-monde -- 3. Fictions of Prostitution -- Part Two. Chabrillan and the Uses of Fiction -- 4. La Sapho, or Staging Vengeance -- 5. Plotting Exoneration -- 6. Chabrillan's Final Novels, or The Uses of Fiction -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index Writing with a Vengeance examines the life and works of a nineteenth-Sommario/riassunto century French courtesan, Céleste Vénard, later the Countess de Chabrillan. A notorious Paris courtesan, Chabrillan married into the nobility, taught herself to write (penning two series of memoirs) and, upon being widowed, wrote novels to support herself - ten, between 1857 and 1885. These novels and memoirs constitute exceptional literary and historical documents, particularly as very few sex workers

before the twentieth century have left written records of their lives. Writing with a Vengeance intertwines the courtesan's autobiographical account of the horrors of her life on the streets with that era's political.

medical, and cultural discourses surrounding prostitution. Though French society both silenced and refused to pardon the prostitute, Carol Mossman's literary analysis of Chabrillan's novels contends that it is through the process of writing itself that she arrived at self-forgiveness and ultimately refashioned for her damaged self a new identity and narrative.

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