

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910136646003321
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Titolo	Clarissa's Ciphers : Meaning and Disruption in Richardson's Clarissa // Terry Castle
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cornell University Press, 1982 Ithaca, N.Y. : , : Cornell University Press, , 1982 ©1982
ISBN	9781501706936 1501706934 9781501706943 1501706942
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (206 pages)
Disciplina	823/.6
Soggetti	Reader-response criticism Rape victims in literature Women and literature - England - History - 18th century Epistolary fiction, English - History and criticism Anthologies
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Bibliography: p. 189-196.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1 . Clarissa by Halves -- 2. Discovering Reading -- 3. Reading the Letter, Reading the World -- 4. Interrupting "Miss Clary" -- 5. Denatured Signs -- 6. The Voyage Out -- 7. The Death of the Author: Clarissa's Coffin -- 8. The Death of the Author: Richardson and the Reader -- 9. Epilogue: The Reader Lives -- Bibliographic Postscript -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	As Samuel Richardson's 'exemplar to her sex,' Clarissa in the eponymous novel published in 1748 is the paradigmatic female victim. In Clarissa's Ciphers, Terry Castle delineates the ways in which, in a world where only voice carries authority, Clarissa is repeatedly silenced, both metaphorically and literally. A victim of rape, she is first a victim of hermeneutic abuse. Drawing on feminist criticism and hermeneutic theory, Castle examines the question of authority in the novel. By

tracing the patterns of abuse and exploitation that occur when meanings are arbitrarily and violently imposed, she explores the sexual politics of reading.
