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Titolo	Clever Girls and the Literature of Women's Upward Mobility [[electronic resource] /] / by Mary Eagleton
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ISBN	3-319-71961-0
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (213 pages)
Disciplina	820.99287
Soggetti	Literature, Modern—20th century Literature, Modern—21st century Social history Social structure Equality Culture Gender Sociology Contemporary Literature Twentieth-Century Literature Social History Social Structure, Social Inequality Culture and Gender Gender Studies
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction: The Language of Upward Mobility -- 2. Escaping Origins -- 3. Relative Values: Career, Marriage, Maternity -- 4. Troublesome Bodies -- 5. New Forms, New Selves -- 6. 'Top Girls' and Other Epithets -- 7. 'The Haves' and 'the Have-Nots' -- 8. Coda: Phantom Feminism.
Sommario/riassunto	This book follows the figure of 'the clever girl' from the post-war to the present and focuses on the fiction, plays and memoirs of contemporary

British women writers. Spurred on by an ethic of meritocracy, the clever girl is now facing austerity and declining social mobility. Though suggesting optimism, a public discourse of 'opportunity', 'aspiration' and 'choice' is often experienced as an anxious and chancy process. In a wide-ranging study, the book explores the struggle to move away from home and traditional notions of femininity; the persistent problems associated with women's embodiment; the pressures of class and racial divisions; the new subjectivities of the neoliberal era; and the generational conflict underpinning austerity. The book ends with a consideration of feminism's place as a phantom presence in this history of clever girls. This study will appeal to readers of contemporary women's writing and to those interested in what has been one of the dominant social narratives of the post-war period from upward to declining mobility. .
