

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910449747703321
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Titolo	Eavesdropping in the novel from Austen to Proust // Ann Gaylin [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2002
ISBN	1-107-12600-2 1-280-15972-3 0-511-12076-1 0-511-04260-4 0-511-15791-6 0-511-32986-5 0-511-48480-1 0-511-04582-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 241 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in nineteenth-century literature and culture ; ; 37
Disciplina	823/.809353
Soggetti	English fiction - 19th century - History and criticism Eavesdropping in literature Comparative literature - English and French Comparative literature - French and English French fiction - History and criticism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 222-236) and index.
Nota di contenuto	I'm all ears: Pride and Prejudice, or the story behind the story -- Eavesdropping and the gentle art of Persuasion -- Household words: Balzac's and Dickens's domestic spaces -- The madwoman outside the attic: eavesdropping and narrative agency in The Woman in White -- La double entente: eavesdropping and identity in A la recherche du temps perdu -- Conclusion: covert listeners and secret agents.
Sommario/riassunto	Eavesdropping in the Novel from Austen to Proust investigates human curiosity and its representation in eavesdropping scenes in nineteenth- century English and French novels. Ann Gaylin argues that eavesdropping dramatizes a primal human urge to know and offers a paradigm of narrative transmission and reception of information

among characters, narrators and readers. Gaylin sheds light on the social and psychological effects of the nineteenth-century rise of information technology and accelerated flow of information, as manifested in the anxieties about - and delight in - displays of private life and its secrets. Analysing eavesdropping in Austen, Balzac, Collins, Dickens and Proust, Gaylin demonstrates the flexibility of the scene to produce narrative complication or resolution; to foreground questions of gender and narrative agency; to place the debates of privacy and publicity within the literal and metaphoric spaces of the nineteenth-century novel. This 2003 study will be of interest to scholars of nineteenth-century English and European literature.
