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Sommario/riassunto	John Evelyn ranks with his friend Samuel Pepys as one of the best loved of English diarists. He was a virtuoso: a man of letters and of science, highly intellectual and devoutly spiritual. This is an absorbing new study of the most controversial episode of his life: his passionate 'seraphic' friendship with Margaret Godolphin, a maid of honour at the Restoration court of Charles II. Was Evelyn in his way as much a sexual

predator as the rakes he professed to despise, or does the episode provide an unexpected slant on contemporary spirituality? Set against the vivid background of the court and
