

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456424503321
Autore	Strange Carolyn <1959->
Titolo	Toronto's girl problem : the perils and pleasures of the city, 1880-1930 // Carolyn Strange
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1995 ©1995
ISBN	1-282-00304-6 9786612003042 1-4426-8269-8
Edizione	[2nd ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (324 p.)
Collana	Studies in Gender and History
Disciplina	305.489065209713541
Soggetti	Single women - Employment - Ontario - Toronto - History Young women - Ontario - Toronto - Economic conditions Single women - Ontario - Toronto - Economic conditions Young women - Ontario - Toronto - Social conditions Single women - Ontario - Toronto - Social conditions Young women - Employment - Ontario - Toronto - History Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Introduction -- 2. City Work, Moral Dilemmas -- 3. Ruined Girls and Fallen Women -- 4. The Social Evil in the Queen City -- 5. Good Times and Bad Girls -- 6. Temptations, Crimes, and Follies -- 7. Citizens, Workers, and Mothers of the Race -- 8. Conclusion -- Appendices -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Picture Credits -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	With the turn of the century came increased industrialization and urbanization, and in Toronto one of the most visible results of this modernization was the influx of young, single women to the city. They came seeking work, independence, and excitement, but they were not to realize these goals without contention. Carolyn Strange examines the rise of the Toronto 'working girl,' the various agencies that 'discovered' her, the nature of 'the girl problem' from the point of view of moral

overseers, the various strategies devised to solve this 'problem,' and lastly, the young women's responses to moral regulation. The 'working girl' seemed a problem to reformers, evangelists, social investigators, police, the courts, and journalists - men, mostly, who saw women's debasement as certain and appointed themselves as protectors of morality. They portrayed single women as victims of potential economic and sexual exploitation and urban immorality. Such characterization drew attention away from the greater problems these women faced: poverty, unemployment, poor housing and nutrition, and low wages. In the course of her investigation, Strange suggests fresh approaches to working-class and urban history. Her sources include the census, court papers, newspaper accounts, philanthropic society reports, and royal commissions, but Strange also employs less conventional sources, such as photographs and popular songs. She approaches the topic from a feminist viewpoint that is equally sensitive to the class and racial dimensions of the 'girl problem,' and compares her findings with the emergence of the working woman in contemporary United States and Great Britain. The overriding observation is that Torontonians projected their fears and hopes about urban industrialization onto the figure of the working girl. Young women were regulated from factories and offices, to streetcars and dancehalls, in an effort to control the deleterious effects of industrial capitalism. By the First World War however, their value as contributors to the expanding economy began to outweigh fear of their moral endangerment. As Torontonians grew accustomed to life in the industrial metropolis, the 'working girl' came to be seen as a valuable resource.
