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Titolo	Writing to delight : Italian short stories by nineteenth-century women writers // edited by Antonia Arslan and Gabriella Romani
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Note generali	Translations of 7 short stories.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction. Scenes from Nineteenth-Century Italy: Delightful Stories on Those Long, Long Winter Evenings / Romani, Gabriella -- Checchina's Virtue / Serao, Matilde -- Paolina / Neera -- Aunt Severina / Neera -- The Lady of the Evening / Neera -- Winter Evenings / Colombi -- Learn a Trade for a Rainy Day / Colombi -- Dear Hope / Marchesa Colombi -- The Bread of the Departed / Percoto, Caterina -- The Caning / Percoto, Caterina -- The Coral Necklace / Contessa Lara -- Woes of the Middle Class / Olper Monis, Virginia -- Scorn for Life / Sperani, Bruno -- Afterword. Ladies, Chickens, and Queens: The Strong Voices of Italian Women Writers / Arslan, Antonia -- Bio-bibliographies of the Authors
Sommario/riassunto	The nineteenth century represents a crucial historical and cultural phase in the development of modern Italy. Writing to Delight provides a selection of short stories written by some of the most accomplished and acclaimed female authors of nineteenth-century Italy, made

available to an English-speaking audience for the first time through this translation. The stories that make up this anthology are written in a realistic vein and describe the life and concerns of women at a time when Italy was going through major social and economic changes. Imbued with didactic aims, the authors of these stories strove to inspire and at the same time educate their public. In this regard, *Writing to Delight* also serves as an instrument for a critical investigation of both the cultural productions of nineteenth-century Italy and the process of formation of modern Italian identities. With the growth of the middle-classes and a more diffuse literacy among the population, women became a visible and conspicuous social force as consumers of cultural goods, such as books and newspapers. Many of the writers included in this anthology – Matilde Serao, Marchesa Colombi, Neera, Contessa Lara – were not only very successful writers of fiction but also worked as journalists for some of the main national newspapers of the time. They were well acquainted with their readers' tastes and expectations and made such awareness an integral part of their creative process. Their fiction thus reflects the many topics and concerns that informed the social and cultural debates of nineteenth-century Italy.
