

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910456522903321 |
| Autore | Porter Roger J. <1936-> |
| Titolo | Bureau of missing persons [[electronic resource]] : writing the secret lives of fathers // Roger J. Porter |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Ithaca [N.Y.], : Cornell University Press, 2011 |
| ISBN | 0-8014-6144-8 0-8014-6096-4 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (214 p.) |
| Disciplina | 808/.06692 |
| Soggetti | Autobiography - Authorship Fathers in literature Secrecy in literature Deception in literature Electronic books. |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: The Child's Book of Parental Deception -- 1. Faith-Changing for Life -- 2. Deciphering Enigma Codes -- 3. The Men Who Were Not There -- 4. Becoming One's Parent -- 5. Breaking the Silence -- Conclusion: Freedom or Exploitation? -- Bibliography -- Index |
| Sommario/riassunto | A devoted reader of autobiographies and memoirs, Roger J. Porter has observed in recent years a surprising number of memoirs by adult children whose fathers have led secret lives. Some of the fathers had second families; some had secret religious lives; others have been criminals, liars, or con men. Struck by the intensely human drama of secrecy and deception played out for all to see, Porter explores the phenomenon in great depth. In Bureau of Missing Persons he examines a large number of these works-eighteen in all-placing them in a wide literary and cultural context and considering the ethical quandaries writers face when they reveal secrets so long and closely held. Among the books Porter treats are Paul Auster's The Invention of Solitude, Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir Fun Home, Essie Mae Washington-Williams's Dear Senator (on her father, Strom Thurmond), Bliss |

Broyard's *One Drop*, Mary Gordon's *The Shadow Man*, and Geoffrey Wolff's *The Duke of Deception*. He also discusses Nathaniel Kahn's documentary film, *My Architect*. These narratives inevitably look inward to the writer as well as outward to the parent. The autobiographical children are compelled, if not consumed, by a desire to know. They become detectives, piecing together clues to fill memory voids, assembling material and archival evidence, public and private documents, letters, photographs, and iconic physical objects to track down the parent.
