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| 1. Record Nr.           | UNINA9910457592903321  |
| Autore                  | Smith Peter <1946 Nov. 19->  |
| Titolo                  | A cavalcade of lesser horrors [[electronic resource] /] / Peter Smith  |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa      | Minneapolis, : University of Minnesota Press, c2011  |
| ISBN                    | 0-8166-7888-X  |
| Descrizione fisica      | 1 online resource (198 p.)   |
| Disciplina              | 791.44/0228092   |
| Soggetti                | Radio broadcasters - United States<br>Electronic books.  |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese  |
| Formato                 | Materiale a stampa   |
| Livello bibliografico   | Monografia   |
| Note generali           | Description based upon print version of record.  |
| Nota di contenuto       | Machine generated contents note: ContentsPrefaceSouth State Street -- A Teaspoon of Water -- Pop's Wound -- A Crisis of Faith -- The Denunciation -- Absolution -- Mortality -- The Man on the Raft -- Lawnmower Repair -- The Biscayne -- A Visit to the Doctor -- Coach -- Leroy -- Wrestling Eddie Dutzler -- Awkward Moment -- Good-bye to Libertyville -- Mademoiselle P. -- Make the World Go Away -- Screwed -- Joe -- An Old Roommate Checks In -- A Preinduction Reverie -- Dear John -- The Major -- The Amnesty Barrel -- 1972 -- A Typewriter Reverie -- Advertising Memories -- Almost -- Pimping My Muse -- Karma Turd A-Coming -- A Bedside Visit -- Vigil Candles.   |
| Sommario/riassunto      | " We exist. We try to lead good, thoughtful lives. And while we all try our best, we can't avoid the startling moments, or we make mistakes and experience little shocks and embarrassments--our lesser horrors--that make us wince and come back to haunt us again and again. For Peter Smith--whose weekly essays for Minnesota Public Radio have endeared him to thousands of listeners and readers--these awkward times are not without their humor, and a healthy dose at that. We all know the circumstances and places the lesser horrors are likely to await--sibling rivalries, high school gym class, job successes and failures, raising children. In this series of funny, honest, and moving pieces, Smith explores a few messy episodes from his own life: growing up Catholic on the south side of Chicago, seeing his tricycle stolen before his eyes, and onward to American life in the '50s and '60s, |

Vietnam, and a career in advertising, where bosses feed employees anxieties to increase creativity. Along the way, Smith discovers how these moments not only help define what it is to be human but are also a major source of our inspiration and imagination. So cover your eyes, peek through your fingers. Life is a cavalcade of lesser horrors. They may not be the easiest memories to relive, but they are often among the funniest. And by facing them squarely and perhaps even with a smile, Smith finds himself uncovering a simple reassurance, an uneasy truth we should take to heart: we're all on this wild ride together. "--

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