1. Record Nr. UNINA9910463928903321 Autore Macrakis Kristie **Titolo** Prisoners, lovers, and spies: the story of invisible ink from Herodotus to al-Qaeda / / Kristie Macrakis Pubbl/distr/stampa New Haven, Connecticut: London: .: Yale University Press. . 2014 ©2014 **ISBN** 0-300-18825-0 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (392 p.) Disciplina 652 Soggetti Writing, Invisible - History Invisible inks - History Confidential communications - History Espionage - Equipment and supplies - History Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Monografia Livello bibliografico Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- 1. The Art of Love and War --2. Intrigue and Inquisition -- 3. Confessing Secrets -- 4. Invisible Landscapes -- 5. Revolutionary Ink -- 6. Magic -- 7. The Secret-Ink War -- 8. The United States Enters the Secret-Ink War -- 9. Visible Nazis -- 10. The Mystery of the Microdot -- 11. Invisible Spy Catchers -- 12. Out in the Cold -- 13. Hiding in Porn Sites -- Epilogue --Appendix: Fun Kitchen Chemistry Experiments (with Jason Lye) --Notes -- Primary Sources -- Credits -- Acknowledgments -- Index Prisoners, Lovers, and Spies is a book about concealing and revealing Sommario/riassunto secret communications. It is the first history of invisible writing, uncovered through stories about scoundrels and heroes. Spies were imprisoned or murdered, adultery unmasked, and battles lost because of faulty or intercepted secret communications. Yet, successfully hidden writing helped save lives, win battles, and ensure privacy; occasionally it even changed the course of history. Kristie Macrakis

> combines a storyteller's sense of drama with a historian's respect for evidence in this page-turning history of intrigue and espionage, love and war, magic and secrecy. From the piazzas of ancient Rome to the

spy capitals of the Cold War, Macrakis's global history reveals the drama and importance of invisible ink. From Ovid's advice to use milk for illicit love notes, to John Gerard's dramatic escape from the tower of London aided by orange juice ink messages, to al-Qaeda's hidden instructions in pornographic movies, this book presents spellbinding stories of secret messaging that chart its evolution in sophistication and its impact on history. An appendix includes fun kitchen chemistry recipes for readers to try out at home.