1. Record Nr. UNINA9910545197903321 Autore Wallace Anne D. Titolo Sisters and the English household: domesticity and women's autonomy in nineteenth-century English literature / / Anne D. Wallace [[electronic resourcell London:,: Anthem Press, 2018 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-78308-847-8 1-78308-846-X Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (x, 203 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) Collana Anthem nineteenth-century series Disciplina 820.9/352209034 Soggetti English literature - 19th century - History and criticism Single women in literature Women and literature - England - History - 19th century Sisters in literature Sex role in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Monografia Livello bibliografico Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 30 May 2019). Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references. Nota di contenuto "Alternative domesticities: re-valuing the sibling in the house" -- "'Out into the orchard': the departure of the sibling in the house" -- "The problem of the sister in the house" -- "George Eliot's natural history of the English family". Sommario/riassunto Sisters and the English Household revalues unmarried adult sisters in nineteenth-century English literature as positive figures of legal and economic autonomy representing productive labor in the domestic space. As a crucial site of contested values, the adult unmarried sister carries the discursive weight of sustained public debates about ideals of domesticity in nineteenth-century England. Engaging scholarly histories of the family, and providing a detailed account of the 70-year Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister controversy, Anne Wallace traces an alternative domesticity anchored by adult sibling relations through Dorothy Wordsworth's journals: William Wordsworth's poetry: Mary

Lamb's essay "On Needle-Work"; and novels by Jane Austen, Elizabeth

Gaskell, Charles Dickens, Dinah Mulock Craik and George Eliot. Recognizing adult sibling relationships, and the figure of the adult unmarried sibling in the household, as primary and generative rather than contingent and dependent, and recognizing material economy and law as fundamental sources of sibling identity, Sisters and the English Household resets the conditions for literary critical discussions of sibling relations in nineteenth-century England.

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