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Autore	Gaylin Ann Elizabeth
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Nota di contenuto	I'm all ears: Pride and Prejudice, or the story behind the story -- Eavesdropping and the gentle art of Persuasion -- Household words: Balzac's and Dickens's domestic spaces -- The madwoman outside the attic: eavesdropping and narrative agency in The Woman in White -- La double entente: eavesdropping and identity in A la recherche du temps perdu -- Conclusion: covert listeners and secret agents.
Sommario/riassunto	Eavesdropping in the Novel from Austen to Proust investigates human curiosity and its representation in eavesdropping scenes in nineteenth- century English and French novels. Ann Gaylin argues that eavesdropping dramatizes a primal human urge to know and offers a paradigm of narrative transmission and reception of information

among characters, narrators and readers. Gaylin sheds light on the social and psychological effects of the nineteenth-century rise of information technology and accelerated flow of information, as manifested in the anxieties about - and delight in - displays of private life and its secrets. Analysing eavesdropping in Austen, Balzac, Collins, Dickens and Proust, Gaylin demonstrates the flexibility of the scene to produce narrative complication or resolution; to foreground questions of gender and narrative agency; to place the debates of privacy and publicity within the literal and metaphoric spaces of the nineteenth-century novel. This 2003 study will be of interest to scholars of nineteenth-century English and European literature.

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