

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780550003321
Autore	Fuhrer Ch (Charlotte)
Titolo	The mysteries of Montreal : memoirs of a midwife // by Charlotte Fuhrer ; edited by W. Peter Ward
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Vancouver : , : University of British Columbia Press, , 1984
ISBN	1-283-22657-X 9786613226570 0-7748-5763-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (177 pages)
Altri autori (Persone)	WardW. Peter
Disciplina	618.2/0092
Soggetti	Midwifery - Canada Canadian literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Reprint. Originally published: Montreal : Printed for the author by J. Lovell, 1881.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliography: [29]-33.
Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- The Mysteries of Montreal -- Introduction -- Early Life and Professional Struggles -- A Just Retribution -- The Rag Baby -- A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing -- Among the Fenians -- A Disciple of Satan -- The Frail Shop Girl -- The Two Orphans -- A Tale of Two Cities -- A Blighted Life -- The Mother-in-Law -- A Deserted Wife, or Model Woman -- A Tale of Bigamy -- The Unfortunate Sailor
Sommario/riassunto	During a long practice of over thirty years I have seen many things enacted here in this city of Montreal which, if told with the skill of a Dumas or a Collins, might not only astonish but startle the sedate residents of this Church-going community. With these words, Charlotte Fuhrer introduces her memoirs. Fuhrer, a midwife in Montreal during the second half of the 19th century, wrote her recollections in the form of highly scandalous moral tales. The stories offer vignettes of the course of love -- faithful and illicit -- in late 19th century urban Canada. Fuhrer's stories are headed with such titillating titles as "A Just Retribution," the story of a prominent businessman's mistress who, after giving birth to her lover's child, "went from bad to worse, and finally took to smoking opium as a means to relieve her gnawing conscience, ending her days prematurely." Fuhrer was at the service of

the high and mighty and desperate, and from her vantage point in the delivery room she offers remarkable insight into the most intimate life of Montreal. Originally published in 1881, *The Mysteries of Montreal* is fully reprinted with an introduction by Peter Ward. Ward illuminates the life of Fuhrer and of midwives in Victorian Canada. He traces the role of the midwife through the ages and, placing Mrs. Fuhrer in the context of her times, discusses birth practices in a Canadian setting. As well, he examines the memoirs as a form of Canadian literature, assessing their reflections on 19th century society. As a result the book operates on more than one level. It is not only a midwife's recollections, but also an assemblage of gossip, moral tales, stories of courtship and birth practices, and even mild pornography. Students of Canadian social history will be interested in the memoirs for their information on 19th century morals and values. The book will also appeal to students of medical history, women's studies, and Canadian literary criticism.
