

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783665903321
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Titolo	The too-good wife [[electronic resource]] : alcohol, codependency, and the politics of nurturance in postwar Japan // Amy Borovoy
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2005
ISBN	9786612358098 1-4237-3146-8 1-282-35809-X 0-520-93868-2 1-59875-808-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (255 p.)
Collana	Ethnographic studies in subjectivity ; ; 6
Classificazione	MS 3040
Disciplina	362.29/13/0952135
Soggetti	Alcoholics - Japan - Tokyo - Family relationships Alcoholics' spouses - Japan - Tokyo Parents of drug addicts - Japan - Tokyo Codependency - Japan - Tokyo Social work with women - Japan - Tokyo Sex role - Japan - Tokyo Wives - Japan - Tokyo
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: "Dirty Lukewarm Water" -- 1. Alcoholism and Codependency: New Vocabularies for Unspeakable Problems -- 2. Motherhood, Nurturance, and "Total Care" in Postwar National Ideology -- 3. Good Wives: Negotiating Marital Relationships -- 4. A Success Story -- 5. The Inescapable Discourse of Motherhood -- Conclusion: The Home as a Feminist Dilemma -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Social drinking is an accepted aspect of working life in Japan, and women are left to manage their drunken husbands when the men return home, restoring them to sobriety for the next day of work. In attempting to cope with their husbands' alcoholism, the women face a profound cultural dilemma: when does the nurturing behavior expected

of a good wife and mother become part of a pattern of behavior that is actually destructive? How does the celebration of nurturance and dependency mask the exploitative aspects not just of family life but also of public life in Japan? *The Too-Good Wife* follows the experiences of a group of middle-class women in Tokyo who participated in a weekly support meeting for families of substance abusers at a public mental-health clinic. Amy Borovoy deftly analyzes the dilemmas of being female in modern Japan and the grace with which women struggle within a system that supports wives and mothers but thwarts their attempts to find fulfillment outside the family. The central concerns of the book reach beyond the problem of alcoholism to examine the women's own processes of self-reflection and criticism and the deeper fissures and asymmetries that undergird Japanese productivity and social order.
