Record Nr. UNINA9910784672103321 Maids and mistresses, cousins and queens: women's alliances in early **Titolo** modern England / / edited by Susan Frye, Karen Robertson Pubbl/distr/stampa New York, New York;; Oxford, [England]:,: Oxford University Press,, 1999 ©1999 **ISBN** 0-19-772508-2 1-280-47043-7 1-4237-5985-0 0-19-535359-5 1-60256-239-3 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (369 p.) Disciplina 305.4/0942 Soggetti Women - England - History Women - Social networks - England Female friendship - England Women and literature - England Women in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese Materiale a stampa **Formato** Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Contents: Contributors: Introduction: Part I: Alliances in the City: 1 Maidservants of London: Sisterhoods of Kinship and Labor; 2 Women. Work, and Plays in an English Medieval Town; 3 Women's Networks and the Female Vagrant: A Hard Case; 4 ""No Good Thing Ever Comes Out of It"": Male Expectation and Female Alliance in Dekker and Webster's Westward Ho; Part II: Alliances in the Household; 5 ""A P[ar]cell of Murdereing Bitches"": Female Relationships in an Eighteenth-Century Slaveholding Household; 6 The Appropriation of Pleasure in The Magnetic Lady 7 Female Alliance and the Construction of Homoeroticism in As You Like It and Twelfth Night8 ""Companion Me with My Mistress"": Cleopatra, Elizabeth I, and Their Waiting Women; Part III: Materializing

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## Sommario/riassunto

This collection of sixteen essays considers evidence for the varied forms of women's alliances in early modern England. Women, who were prohibited from direct participation in the institutional structures that shaped the lives of men, constructed informal connections with other women for survival, advancement, and creativity. The essays presented here consider a variety of communities--formed among groups as diverse as serving women, vagrants, aristocrats, and authors--in order to consider the historical traces of women's connections.