

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788055503321
Autore	Justice Steven <1957->
Titolo	Adam Usk's secret / / Steven Justice
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : , : University of Pennsylvania Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	0-8122-9105-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (222 pages)
Collana	Middle Ages Series
Disciplina	942.03/8
Soggetti	Written communication - England - History - To 1500 Great Britain History Richard II, 1377-1399 Historiography
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. The First Secret -- Chapter 2. The Story of William Clerk -- Chapter 3. Fear -- Chapter 4. Prophecy -- Chapter 5. Utility -- Chapter 6. Grief -- Chapter 7. Theory of History -- Chapter 8. Adam Usk's Secret -- Conclusion -- List of Abbreviations -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	Adam Usk, a Welsh lawyer in England and Rome during the first years of the fifteenth century, lived a peculiar life. He was, by turns, a professor, a royal advisor, a traitor, a schismatic, and a spy. He cultivated and then sabotaged figures of great influence, switching allegiances between kings, upstarts, and popes at an astonishing pace. Usk also wrote a peculiar book: a chronicle of his own times, composed in a strangely anxious and secretive voice that seems better designed to withhold vital facts than to recount them. His bold starts tumble into anticlimax; he interrupts what he starts to tell and omits what he might have told. Yet the kind of secrets a political man might find safer to keep—the schemes and violence of regime change—Usk tells openly. Steven Justice sets out to find what it was that Adam Usk wanted to hide. His search takes surprising turns through acts of political violence, persecution, censorship, and, ultimately, literary history. Adam Usk's narrow, eccentric literary genius calls into question some of the most casual and confident assumptions of literary criticism and

historiography, making stale rhetorical habits seem new. Adam Usk's *Secret* concludes with a sharp challenge to historians over what they think they can know about literature—and to literary scholars over what they think they can know about history.
