Record Nr.	UNINA9910790873603321
Autore	Ellis David <1939->
Titolo	Memoirs of a Leavisite : the decline and fall of Cambridge English / / David Ellis [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Liverpool : , : Liverpool University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-78138-932-2
	1-84631-802-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 151 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	801.95092
Soggetti	English literature - Study and teaching (Higher) - England - Cambridge
	- History - 20th century English literature - History and criticism - Theory, etc
	English teachers - Great Britain
	Critics - Great Britain
	Cambridge (England) Intellectual life 20th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 11 Aug 2017).
Nota di contenuto	Holloway First Impressions Sanctimonious prick? Close reading Time out QDL Class Politics France The Richmond lecture Loose end Research Theory Australia Shakespeare, Stendhal and James Smith Teaching in the UK Lawrence and Eliot Epilogue.
Sommario/riassunto	In the second half of the last century, the teaching of English literature was very much influenced and, in some places, entirely dominated by the ideas of F. R. Leavis.What was it like to be taught by this iconic figure? How and why did one become a Leavisite? In this unique book, part memoir, part study of Leavis, David Ellis takes himself as representative of that pool of lower middle class grammar school pupils from which Leavisites were largely recruited, and explores the beliefs of both the Leavises, their lasting impact on him and why ultimately they were doomed to failure.At the heart of this book are questions about what English should and can be that are by no means finally settled.

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