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Autore	Wills Garry <1934->
Titolo	Augustine's Confessions [[electronic resource]] : a biography // Garry Wills
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, N.J., : Princeton University Press, c2011
ISBN	1-78268-555-3 1-282-97637-0 9786612976377 1-4008-3802-9
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (177 p.)
Collana	Lives of great religious books
Disciplina	270.2092
Soggetti	Christian saints - Algeria - Hippo (Extinct city) - History and criticism
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	The book's birth -- The book's genre -- The book's African days -- The book's Ambrose -- The book's "conversion" -- The book's baptismal days -- The book's culmination -- The book's afterlife : early reception, later neglect.
Sommario/riassunto	In this brief and incisive book, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Garry Wills tells the story of the Confessions--what motivated Augustine to dictate it, how it asks to be read, and the many ways it has been misread in the one-and-a-half millennia since it was composed. Following Wills's biography of Augustine and his translation of the Confessions, this is an unparalleled introduction to one of the most important books in the Christian and Western traditions. Understandably fascinated by the story of Augustine's life, modern readers have largely succumbed to the temptation to read the Confessions as autobiography. But, Wills argues, this is a mistake. The book is not autobiography but rather a long prayer, suffused with the language of Scripture and addressed to God, not man. Augustine tells the story of his life not for its own significance but in order to discern how, as a drama of sin and salvation leading to God, it fits into sacred history. "We have to read Augustine as we do Dante," Wills writes, "alert to rich layer upon layer of Scriptural and theological symbolism." Wills

also addresses the long afterlife of the book, from controversy in its own time and relative neglect during the Middle Ages to a renewed prominence beginning in the fourteenth century and persisting to today, when the Confessions has become an object of interest not just for Christians but also historians, philosophers, psychiatrists, and literary critics. With unmatched clarity and skill, Wills strips away the centuries of misunderstanding that have accumulated around Augustine's spiritual classic.
