

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791989303321
Autore	Spacks Patricia Ann Meyer
Titolo	Privacy [[electronic resource]] : concealing the eighteenth-century self // Patricia Meyer Spacks
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 2003
ISBN	1-283-15083-2 9786613150837 0-226-76861-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (251 p.)
Disciplina	823/.509353
Soggetti	English fiction - 18th century - History and criticism Privacy in literature Secrecy in literature Self in literature
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	Privacies -- Privacies of reading -- The performance of sensibility -- Privacy, dissimulation, and propriety -- Private conversations -- Exposures : sex, privacy, and sensibility -- Trivial pursuits -- Privacy as enablement.
Sommario/riassunto	Today we consider privacy a right to be protected. But in eighteenth-century England, privacy was seen as a problem, even a threat. Women reading alone and people hiding their true thoughts from one another in conversation generated fears of uncontrollable fantasies and profound anxieties about insincerity. In <i>Privacy</i> , Patricia Meyer Spacks explores eighteenth-century concerns about privacy and the strategies people developed to avoid public scrutiny and social pressure. She examines, for instance, the way people hid behind common rules of etiquette to mask their innermost feelings and how, in fact, people were taught to employ such devices. She considers the erotic overtones that privacy aroused in its suppression of deeper desires. And perhaps most important, she explores the idea of privacy as a societal threat—one that bred pretense and hypocrisy in its practitioners. Through inspired readings of novels by Defoe, Richardson, Fielding, and Sterne,

along with a penetrating glimpse into diaries, autobiographies, poems, and works of pornography written during the period, Spacks ultimately shows how writers charted the imaginative possibilities of privacy and its social repercussions. Finely nuanced and elegantly conceived, Spacks's new work will fascinate anyone who has relished concealment or mourned its recent demise.
