Record Nr. UNINA9910806813903321 Autore Marcus Sharon <1966-> Titolo Between women: friendship, desire, and marriage in Victorian England // Sharon Marcus Pubbl/distr/stampa Princeton,: Princeton University Press, c2007 **ISBN** 1-282-25912-1 9786612259128 1-4008-3085-0 Edizione [Course Book] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (368 p.) Disciplina 306.84/8094209034 Soggetti Women - England - History Women - Social networks - England Lesbians - England - History Female friendship - England Women in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. [317]-346) and index. Nota di contenuto The female relations of Victorian England -- Friendship and the play of the system -- Just reading: female friendship and the marriage plot --Dressing up and dressing down the feminine plaything -- The female accessory in Great expectations -- The genealogy of marriage --Contracting female marriage in Can you forgive her? -- Woolf, Wilde and girl dates. Women in Victorian England wore lewelry made from each other's hair Sommario/riassunto and wrote poems celebrating decades of friendship. They pored over magazines that described the dangerous pleasures of corporal punishment. A few had sexual relationships with each other, exchanged rings and vows, willed each other property, and lived together in long-term partnerships described as marriages. But, as Sharon Marcus shows, these women were not seen as gender outlaws. Their desires were fanned by consumer culture and their friendships and unions were accepted and even encouraged by family, society, and

> church. Far from being sexless angels defined only by male desires, Victorian women openly enjoyed looking at and even dominating other

women. Their friendships helped realize the ideal of companionate love between men and women celebrated by novels, and their unions influenced politicians and social thinkers to reform marriage law.-- From publisher description.