

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910808112703321
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Titolo	The myth of women's masochism / / with a new preface by the author, Paula J. Caplan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1993 ©1993
ISBN	1-281-99719-6 9786611997199 1-4426-7749-X
Edizione	[2nd pbk. ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (325 p.)
Disciplina	155.633
Soggetti	Women - United States - Psychology Masochism Self-denial Mothers - United States - Psychology Electronic books. United States
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	CONTENTS -- PREFACE -- CHAPTER 1 Why Do You Do This to Yourself? -- CHAPTER 2 What the Experts Have Said -- CHAPTER 3 Mothers -- CHAPTER 4 The Child's Growth Toward Masochism: Expert Opinion and Reality -- CHAPTER 5 Women in Relationships with Men -- CHAPTER 6 Women's Bodies -- CHAPTER 7 Women as Victims of Violence -- CHAPTER 8 Women at Work -- CHAPTER 9 Women in Therapy -- CHAPTER 10 The Beginning -- Notes -- Bibliographical References -- Index -- A -- B -- C -- D -- E -- F -- G -- H -- I -- J -- K -- L -- M -- N -- O Pr -- s -- t -- u -- v -- w -- x -- y -- z
Sommario/riassunto	Soon after publication in 1985, <i>The Myth of Women's Masochism</i> became one of the most influential works in women's psychology. Paula Caplan rejects the accepted wisdom that women enjoy pain and abuse,

and argues that, on the contrary, much of the pain women endure is to avoid further, or worse, treatment. Women stay with abusive husbands in order, for instance, to protect themselves and their children from the greater suffering of poverty. She makes the point that the quintessentially feminine traits of nurturing, patience, and self-denial are not pathological, as is often stated. Her book confronts the myth of women's masochism as it affects every aspect of women's lives; it challenges psychiatry to change the way it perceives women; and it offers women a positive new view of themselves. In the new preface to this edition, Paula Caplan regrets that most of the data still apply, and speculates why that is. She also provides an update on the views of the American Psychiatric Association on women's masochism, thereby revealing much about the condition of women in our civilization. The *Myth of Women's Masochism* is likely to remain relevant for some time, a key text for women's studies courses and a source of confidence for women themselves.
