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Autore	Batty Nancy Ellen
Titolo	The ring of recollection [[electronic resource]] : transgenerational haunting in the novels of Shashi Deshpande // Nancy Ellen Batty ; foreword by Jasbir Jain
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material -- The Kernel, the Shell, and a "fish-stinking ring": Notes Toward a Cryptomimetic Reading of Deshpande's Fiction -- Haunted Beginnings: The Roots of Domestic Terror in Deshpande's Early Fiction -- "I am like a house full of unclean things, never cleaned, never opened": The Maternal Crypt in The Dark Holds No Terrors -- "you can never be the heroine of your own story": Peering Into the Other's Crypt in That Long Silence -- "This book is mine as all can tell, if you steal it you will go to hell": Transgressing the Other's Crypt in The Binding Vine -- "What could my mother be to yours?": Disinheriting the Phantom in A Matter of Time -- "healing in the words": Deshpande's Contract with the Dead in Small Remedies -- Coda — "Still it moves" -- Works Cited -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	In The Ring of Recollection , Nancy Batty challenges the critical orthodoxy that Shashi Deshpande's fiction is transparently realistic and narrowly focused on domestic and women's issues. This study shifts attention towards the labyrinthine structure and modernist style of most of Deshpande's writing. Features hitherto viewed as deviations from her realism, or even as flaws, are re-situated in the light of a gothic poetics that works to uncover a structural trope of transgenerational secrecy, beginning with Deshpande's early detective

fiction and extending to her most recent work. Linking a fourth-century Sanskrit play by Kalidasa (*Shakuntala*) and the psychoanalytic theories of Nicolas Abraham and Maria Torok, Batty offers in-depth reinterpretations of five of Deshpande's major novels, published over a period of twenty years (1980–2000): *The Dark Holds No Terrors* ; *That Long Silence* ; *The Binding Vine* ; *A Matter of Time* ; and *Small Remedies* . These novels have established Deshpande's critical reputation as a 'woman's' writer whose major concern is to break the "long silence" of Indian women. Batty shifts the ground of analysis by establishing that Deshpande's fictional world encompasses more than just female characters, and that the trope of silence extends not only to her male characters but also to communities, in a society where silence about shameful past events can control the destinies of entire families. Thus we see in her novels characters whose lives are disturbed, haunted, and sometimes even controlled not just by traumatic events but also by transgenerational family secrets to which they often do not have access. Moreover, the breaking of silence – the revelatory opening of family crypts – can have devastating consequences. Restoration of memory may have the power to reorganize the past and change the future, but it rarely possesses the magic required to reunite lovers or to restore wholeness to shattered lives. *The Ring of Recollection* offers a major reappraisal of one of India's most prolific and respected contemporary writers.
