

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910821100903321
Autore	Green Katherine Sobba <1949->
Titolo	The courtship novel, 1740-1820 : a feminized genre // Katherine Sobba Green
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lexington, Kentucky : , : The University Press of Kentucky, , 1991 ©1991
ISBN	0-8131-8448-7 0-8131-4966-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (193 p.)
Disciplina	823/.0850906
Soggetti	English fiction - 18th century - History and criticism Courtship in literature Feminism and literature - Great Britain - History - 18th century Feminism and literature - Great Britain - History - 19th century Women and literature - Great Britain - History - 18th century Women and literature - Great Britain - History - 19th century English fiction - Women authors - History and criticism English fiction - 19th century - History and criticism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p.[165]-179) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title; Copyright; Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction; Part I. A Feminized Genre; 1. The Courtship Novel: Textual Liberation for Women; 2. Eliza Haywood: A Mid-Career Conversion; 3. Mary Collyer: Genre Experiment; Part II. Feminist Reception Theory; 4. Early Feminist Reception Theory: Clarissa and The Female Quixote; 5. Charlotte Lennox: Henrietta, Runaway Ingenue; 6. Frances Moore Brooke: Emily Montague's Sanctum Sanctorum; Part III. The Commodification of Heroines; 7. The Blazon and the Marriage Act: Beginning for the Commodity Market 8. Fanny Burney: Cecilia, the Reluctant HeiressPart IV. Educational Reform; 9. Richardson and Wollstonecraft: The ""Learned Lady"" and the New Heroine; 10. Bluestockings, Amazons, Sentimentalists, and Fashionable Women; 11. Jane West: Prudentia Homespun and Educational Reform; 12. Mary Brunton: The Disciplined Heroine; Part V.

The Denouement: Courtship and Marriage; 13. Courtship: "When Nature Pronounces Her Marriageable"; 14. Maria Edgeworth: Belinda and a Healthy Scepticism; 15. Jane Austen: The Blazon Overturned; Conclusion; Chronology of Courtship Novels; Notes; Index; A; B; C; D; E; F  
GH; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; R; S; T; W

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Sommario/riassunto

The period from her first London assembly to her wedding day was the narrow span of autonomy for a middle-class Englishwoman in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. For many women, as Katherine Sobba Green shows, the new ideal of companionate marriage involved such thoroughgoing revisions in self-perception that a new literary form was needed to represent their altered roles. That the choice among suitors ideally depended on love and should not be decided on any other grounds was a principal theme among a group of heroine-centered novels published between 1740 and 1820. During these d

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