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Titolo	Useful fictions : evolution, anxiety, and the origins of literature // Michael Austin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lincoln, : University of Nebraska Press, c2010
ISBN	1-283-05081-1 9786613050816 0-8032-3297-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (193 p.)
Collana	Frontiers of narrative
Disciplina	809.3
Soggetti	Fiction - History and criticism - Theory, etc Fiction - Psychological aspects Fiction - Appreciation Evolution in literature Literature - Philosophy
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	Scheherazade's stories and Pangloss's nose -- Stories for thinking -- The influence of anxiety -- Information anxiety -- The problem of other people -- Sex, lies, and phenotypes -- Deceiving ourselves and others.
Sommario/riassunto	"We tell ourselves stories in order to live," Joan Didion observed in The White Album. Why is this? Michael Austin asks, in Useful Fictions. Why, in particular, are human beings, whose very survival depends on obtaining true information, so drawn to fictional narratives? After all, virtually every human culture reveres some form of storytelling. Might there be an evolutionary reason behind our species' need for stories?