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Titolo	The secret within : hermits, recluses, and spiritual outsiders in medieval England // Wolfgang Riehle ; translated by Charity Scott-Stokes
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Altri autori (Persone)	Scott-StokesCharity
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The development of eremitical mysticism in the British Isles -- Early Cistercian theology in England -- Ancrene wise : a magnificent exemplar of early English mysticism -- "Female" versus "male" spirituality : a talking of the love of God and the meditations of the Monk of Farne -- Richard Rolle of Hampole : England's first great mystic -- Marguerite Porete's Mirror of simple souls and its reception in England -- The cloud of unknowing and related tracts -- Walter Hilton : England's mystic theologian -- The singular vision of Julian of Norwich -- Margery Kempe : the shocking "fool in Christ" -- Some aspects of popularizing mysticism in late medieval England.
Sommario/riassunto	Spiritual seekers throughout history have sought illumination through solitary contemplation. In the Christian tradition, medieval England stands out for its remarkable array of hermits, recluses, and spiritual outsiders-from Cuthbert, Godric of Fichale, and Christina of Markyate to Richard Rolle, Julian of Norwich, and Margery Kempe. In The Secret Within, Wolfgang Riehle offers the first comprehensive history of English medieval mysticism in decades-one that will appeal to anyone fascinated by mysticism as a phenomenon of religious life. In considering the origins and evolution of the English mystical tradition, Riehle begins in the twelfth century with the revival of eremitical

mysticism and the early growth of the Cistercian Order in the British Isles. He then focuses in depth on the great mystics of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries-Richard Rolle (the first great English mystic), the author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*, Walter Hilton, Margery Kempe, and Julian of Norwich. Riehle carefully grounds his narrative in the broader spiritual landscape of the Middle Ages, pointing out both prior influences dating back to Late Antiquity and corresponding developments in mysticism and theology on the Continent. He discusses the problem of possible differences between male and female spirituality and the movement of popularizing mysticism in the late Middle Ages. Filled with fresh insights, *The Secret Within* will be welcomed especially by teachers and students of medieval literature as well as by those engaged in historical, theological, philosophical, cultural, even anthropological and comparative studies of mysticism.
