

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910966313503321
Autore	Lal Ruby
Titolo	Coming of age in nineteenth-century India : the girl-child and the art of playfulness / / Ruby Lal
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-107-23749-1 1-139-85437-2 1-139-84614-0 1-139-84293-5 1-139-84056-8 1-139-84529-2 1-139-34331-9 1-283-83635-1 1-139-84174-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvii, 229 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	HIS017000
Disciplina	305.235/2095409034
Soggetti	Women - India - Social life and customs - 19th century Girls - India - Social life and customs - 19th century Domestic relations - India - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Prelude: opening the door -- 1. Texts, spaces, histories -- 2. The woman of the forest -- 3. The woman of the school -- 4. The woman of the household -- 5. The woman of the rooftops -- A retrospect: in pursuit of playfulness.
Sommario/riassunto	In this engaging and eloquent history, Ruby Lal traces the becoming of nineteenth-century Indian women through a critique of narratives of linear transition from girlhood to womanhood. In the north Indian patriarchal environment, women's lives were dominated by the expectations of the male universal, articulated most clearly in household chores and domestic duties. The author argues that girls and women in the early nineteenth century experienced freedoms, eroticism, adventurousness and playfulness, even within restrictive

circumstances. Although women in the colonial world of the later nineteenth century remained agential figures, their activities came to be constrained by more firmly entrenched domestic norms. Lal skillfully marks the subtle and complex alterations in the multifaceted female subject in a variety of nineteenth-century discourses, elaborated in four different sites - forest, school, household, and rooftops.

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