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Note generali	"First published in 1984"--T.p. verso.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Ideas of female perfection -- pt. 2. And the greatest of these was chastity -- pt. 3. Female education -- pt. 4. Approaching marriage -- pt. 5. Marriage and after -- pt. 6. Women's legal position : marriage law and custom -- pt. 7. Women without husbands -- pt. 8. Crime and punishment -- pt. 9. The female poor -- pt. 10. Women and agriculture -- pt. 11. Women in industry and other occupations -- pt. 12. Female domestic servants -- pt. 13. Women protest.
Sommario/riassunto	When it was first published in 1984, this book filled an acknowledged gap in the social history of the period and made available hitherto inaccessible sources. The work draws on newspapers and journals, memoirs, diaries, courtesy books, county surveys and records, but also on the literature of the period, its novels, poetry and plays. It examines the role assigned to women in eighteenth-century society and the education thought fitting to perform it. It looks at attitudes to courtship and marriage, chastity and sexual passion. It explores the role of women as wives and mothers, as spinsters