1. Record Nr. UNINA9910974565103321

Autore Shields David <1956->

Titolo Remote: reflections on life in the shadow of celebrity / / David Shields:

foreword by Phillip Lopate

Pubbl/distr/stampa Madison, : University of Wisconsin Press, [2004], c1996

ISBN 9786612788260

9781282788268 1282788264 9780299193638 0299193632

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (189 p.)

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Disciplina 813/.54

В

Soggetti Authors, American - 20th century

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 (p. 161-170).

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Cultural Contradictions of Late Capitalism -- Robert Capa,
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Sommario/riassunto

In this truly one-of-a-kind book, the author/narrator-a representative, in extremis, of contemporary American obsession with beauty, celebrity, transmitted image-finds himself suspended, fascinated, in the remoteness of our wall-to-wall mediascape. It is a remoteness that both perplexes and enthralls him. Through dazzling sleight of hand in which the public becomes private and the private becomes public, the entire book-clicking from confession to family-album photograph to family chronicle to sexual fantasy to pseudo-scholarly footnote to reportage to personal essay to stand-up comedy to cultural criticism to literary criticism to film criticism to prose-poem to litany to outtake - becomes both an anatomy of American culture and a searing self-portrait. David Shields reads his own life-reads our life-as if it were an allegory about remoteness and finds persuasive, hilarious, heartbreaking evidence wherever he goes. Winner of the PEN / Revson Award?