

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996248006203316
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Titolo	Spiritual Marriage : Sexual Abstinence in Medieval Wedlock // Dyan Elliott
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton (N.J.) : , : Princeton Univ. Press, , 2003 ©2003
ISBN	1-4008-4434-7
Edizione	[2nd ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 375 p.)
Collana	Princeton paperbacks
Disciplina	306.7
Soggetti	Ehe - Keuschheit - Geschichte Mittelalter Keuschheit - Ehe - Geschichte Mittelalter Ehe - Christentum - Geschichte Mittelalter Christentum - Ehe - Geschichte Mittelalter Ehelosigkeit Ehe Christentum Europe Social life and customs Europe Church history 600-1500
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [321]-354) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover Page -- Half-title Page -- Title Page -- Copyright Page -- Dedication Page -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- Introduction -- One: "A Place in the Middle": Intramarital Chastity as Theoretical Embarrassment and Provocation -- Two: Spiritual Marriage as Insoluble Problem or Universal Nostrum ? -- Three: Eleventh-Century Boundaries: The Spirit of Reform and the Cult of the Virgin King -- Four: The Conjugal Debt and Vows of Chastity: The Theoretical and Pastoral Discourse of the High and Later Middle Ages -- Five: Spiritual Marriage and the Penitential Ethos -- Six: Virgin Wives -- Conclusion -- Appendixes -- Select Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	The early Christian and medieval practice of spiritual marriage, in which husband and wife mutually and voluntarily relinquish sexual activity for reasons of piety, plays an important role in the development of the

institution of marriage and in the understanding of female religiosity. Drawing on hagiography, chronicles, theology, canon law, and pastoral sources, Dyan Elliott traces the history of spiritual marriage in the West from apostolic times to the beginning of the sixteenth century.
