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Sommario/riassunto	This monograph presents the first comprehensive diachronic account of copular and passive verb constructions in Old and Middle English. Loss of the high-frequency verb <i>weorðan</i> 'become' is explained as a result of changing word order in narrative during Middle English. The merger of <i>is</i> 'is' and <i>bið</i> 'shall be, is generally' into a single suppletive verb is related to the development of a general analytic future <i>shall</i> . benally, the co-occurrence of multiple changes led to <i>become</i> and <i>wax</i> crossing a threshold of similarity with existing copulas, from which they analogically adopted full productivity.