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Sommario/riassunto	'By Accident or Design: Writing the Victorian Metropolis' takes Henry James' observation of London in 1888 at his word, arguing that accident was both a powerful metaphor and material context through which the Victorians arrested the paradoxes of metropolitan modernity and reconfigured understandings of form and change. This book shows how the material conditions of urban accidents offer new and compelling modes of analysis for intellectual and literary history.