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Autore	Thursby Jacqueline S. <1940->
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Funerals as festivals -- The final passage -- Wakes and other amusements -- Funeral biscuits and funeral feasts -- Mourners' rites -- Explaining the festival and the American way of death.
Sommario/riassunto	When Evelyn Waugh wrote <i>The Loved One</i> (1948) as a satire of the elaborate preparations and memorialization of the dead taking place in his time, he had no way of knowing how extraordinarily creative and technical human funerary practices would become. Jacqueline S. Thursby explores how modern American funerals and their accompanying rituals seem meant to benefit the living rather than the dead. <i>Funeral Festivals in America</i> suggests that there is an irony in the festivities surrounding death and that the American response to death often develops into an event celebrating the ties between family