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Sommario/riassunto	The first major consideration of old age in Western philosophy and literature since Simone de Beauvoir's <i>The Coming of Age</i> , Helen Small ranges widely from Plato through to recent work by Derek Parfit, Bernard Williams and others, and from <i>King Lear</i> through Balzac, Dickens, Beckett, Stevie Smith, Bellow, Roth, and Coetzee. - ;The Long Life invites the reader to range widely from the writings of Plato through to recent philosophical work by Derek Parfit, Bernard Williams, and others, and from Shakespeare's <i>King Lear</i> through works by Thomas Mann, Balzac, Dickens, Beckett, Stevie Smith, Philip La