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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 349-354) and index.
Nota di contenuto	"A shit-filled life": Philip Roth's Sabbath's theater "We are here to be humiliated": Philip Roth's recent fiction Geoffrey Hartman, Wordsworth, and Holocaust testimonies Cynthia Ozick: embarrassments Lionel Trilling and "the deep places of the imagination" The Trillings: a marriage of true minds? Lionel Trilling and the politics of style Philip Rahv: "he never learned to swim" Alfred Kazin and Irving Howe The two worlds of cultural criticism Edmund Wilson and gentile philo-Semitism Listmania in Humboldt's gift Assimilation in recent American Jewish autobiographies Revisiting Morrie: were his last words too good to be true? The art of the obituary Why are English departments still fighting the culture wars? Upon retirement.
Sommario/riassunto	When he learned he had ALS and roughly two years to live, literary critic Mark Krupnick returned to the writers who had been his lifelong conversation partners and asked with renewed intensity: how do you live as a Jew, when, mostly, you live in your head? The evocative and sinuous essays collected here are the products of this inquiry. In his search for durable principles, Krupnick follows Lionel Trilling, Cynthia Ozick, Geoffrey Hartman, Philip Roth, Saul Bellow, and others into the elemental matters of life and death, sex and gender, power and vulnerability. The editors-Krupnick's wife, Jean K. Carney, and literary critic Mark Shechner-have also included earlier essays and introductions that link Krupnick's work with the "deep places" of his own imagination.