

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779364003321
Autore	Green James W.
Titolo	Beyond the Good Death : The Anthropology of Modern Dying // James W. Green
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia : , : University of Pennsylvania Press, , [2012] ©2008
ISBN	1-283-89046-1 0-8122-0207-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (266 p.)
Disciplina	306.90973
Soggetti	Death - Social aspects - United States Death - Psychological aspects Funeral rites and ceremonies - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 235-253) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- 1. Getting Dead -- 2. Exit Strategies -- 3. The Body As Relic -- 4. Soulscapes -- 5. Passing It On -- 6. In Our Hearts Forever -- 7. The Future Of Death -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	In November 1998, millions of television viewers watched as Thomas Youk died. Suffering from the late stages of Lou Gehrig's disease, Youk had called upon infamous Michigan pathologist Dr. Jack Kevorkian to help end his life on his own terms. After delivering the videotape to 60 Minutes, Kevorkian was arrested and convicted of manslaughter, despite the fact that Youk's family firmly believed that the ending of his life qualified as a good death. Death is political, as the controversies surrounding Jack Kevorkian and, more recently, Terri Schiavo have shown. While death is a natural event, modern end-of-life experiences are shaped by new medical, demographic, and cultural trends. People who are dying are kept alive, sometimes against their will or the will of their family, with powerful medications, machines, and "heroic measures." Current research on end-of-life issues is substantial, involving many fields. Beyond the Good Death takes an anthropological approach, examining the changes in our concept of death over the last

several decades. As author James W. Green determines, the attitudes of today's baby boomers differ greatly from those of their parents and grandparents, who spoke politely and in hushed voices of those who had "passed away." Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, in the 1960's, gave the public a new language for speaking openly about death with her "five steps of dying." If we talked more about death, she emphasized, it would become less fearful for everyone. The term "good death" reentered the public consciousness as narratives of AIDS, cancer, and other chronic diseases were featured on talk shows and in popular books such as the best-selling *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Green looks at a number of contemporary secular American death practices that are still informed by an ancient religious ethos. Most important, *Beyond the Good Death* provides an interpretation of the ways in which Americans react when death is at hand for themselves or for those they care about.
