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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- List of Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Preface -- Part One: Contemporary Concerns -- 1. Popular Hazards; or, How We Insist Similar Social Problems Are Different -- 2. American Nightmares; or, Why Sociologists Hate the American Dream / Schweingruber, David -- Part Two: Constructing Future Problems -- 3. Evaluating Predictions; or, How to Compare the Maya Calendar, Social Security, and Climate Change -- 4. Future Talk; or, How Slippery Slopes Shape Concern -- Part Three: Looking Backward and Beyond Sociology -- 5. Memories as Problems; or, How to Reconsider Confederate Flags and Other Symbols of the Past / Nichols, Lawrence T. -- 6. Economicization; or, Why Economists Get More Respect Than Sociologists -- Afterword: The Future of American Nightmares -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In an accessible and droll style, well-known sociologist Joel Best shines a light on how we navigate these anxious, insecure social times. While most of us still strive for the American Dream-to graduate from college, own a home, work toward early retirement-recent generations have been told that the next generation will not be able to achieve these goals, that things are getting-or are on the verge of getting-worse. In American Nightmares, Best addresses the apprehension that we face every day as we are bombarded with threats that the social

institutions we count on are imperiled. Our schools are failing to teach our kids. Healthcare may soon be harder to obtain. We can't bank on our retirement plans. And our homes-still the largest chunk of most people's net worth-may lose much of their value. Our very way of life is being threatened! Or is it? With a steady voice and keen focus, Best examines how a culture develops fears and fantasies and how these visions are created and recreated in every generation. By dismantling current ideas about the future, collective memory, and sociology's marginalization in the public square, Best sheds light on how social problems-and our anxiety about them-are socially constructed.
