

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910797636603321
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Titolo	Writing widowhood : the landscapes of bereavement // Jeffrey Berman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Albany, New York : , : SUNY Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	1-4384-5821-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (246 p.)
Disciplina	810.9/9287
Soggetti	American literature - Women authors - History and criticism Widows in literature Bereavement in literature Widows' writings Widowhood - Psychological aspects Autobiography - Authorship
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction: "The Most Life-Changing Event"; The Shock of Widowhood; "People in Grief Become More Like Themselves"; Continuing Bonds; 1 Joyce Carol Oates: A Widow's Story; The Motives Behind Journal Writing; Anorexia; Raymond Smith; Depression and Suicide; Psychoanalysis, Psychiatry, and Psychotherapy; The Writing Cure; Oates/Smith; A Widow's Story; "This Can't Be Happening"; Self-Blame and Guilt; Suicide; The Basilisk; "The Most Seductive of Literary Genres"; Memoir or Journal?; The Nest; The Writer's Woundedness; "A Solace and a Lifeline" JCO: "An Island, an Oasis" Dark Humor; The Shattered Self; The Mystery of Black Mass; Dedicatory Grief; "The Widows"; "Probate"; "Sourland"; Love, Loss, and Recovery; "Breach of Narrative Promise"; Joyce Carol Gross; Neuroscientist and Storyteller; Life after Widowhood; 2 Sandra M. Gilbert: Wrongful Death; "Why Must Your Poems Be So Morbid?"; "I'm a Widow"; Marital Happiness; Elliot Gilbert; "How Mysteries Affect People"; Acknowledging Spousal Help; Wrongful Death; "An Adverse Event"; "I Couldn't Feel Worse if It Were Me Own Father"; A Detective Mystery

A Reliable Narrator and a Sympathetic Character The Aftermath of Loss; Magical Thinking; Self-Blame; Grief Books; Therese A. Rando; Shrink; Self-Healing in Death's Door; Joyce Brothers; Ghost Volcano and Aftermath: Elliot Gilbert's Continuing Presence; Ruth Stone; The Widow's Search for New Love; Falling in Love Again; David Gale; "When She Was Kissed by the Mathematician"; "After Math"; 3 Gail Godwin: Evenings At Five; The Making of a Writer; "You Never Get Over It"; Twice Married, Twice Divorced; "I Do Not Believe I Can Do without a Man"; "I Put Writing First Now"; A Life in Music Meeting Gail Godwin Evenings at Five; Setting Fire to Their Respective Lives; "I Wonder What My Last Words Will Be"; "Four Stimulating but Often Puzzling Parts of My Own Character"; "We Still Have Some More Time Together"; "Death Had Always Fascinated Rudy"; "Two Old Hearts, Still Entwined"; "Stop All Alcohol"; Differences between Evenings at Five and A Widow's Story; Completing the Story; Pointers toward Wholeness; 4 Joan Didion: The Year of Magical Thinking and Blue Nights; Slouching towards Bethlehem; Play It as It Lays; A Book of Common Prayer; The White Album; Anti-Psychiatry Self-Help Books Dutch Shea, Jr.; Adopted Daughters; The Year of Magical Thinking; The Year of Magical Thinking: The Play; Blue Nights; Borderline Personality Disorder; Fragments of a Novel; The Ethics of Self-Disclosure; Fear of Abandonment; The "Delicate Life Dance" of Adopted Children; Self-Blame; Losing a Child; "An Inadequate Adjustment to Aging"; 5 Kay Redfield Jamison: Nothing Was the Same; Mood Disorders and Creativity; Coming Out of the Closet; Richard Wyatt; Exuberance; Nothing Was the Same; "Imperfect"; A Love Story; Gratitude; "Words to Live By"; Paying Back Debts; Wyatt's Death "Thank You for Such Happiness"

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