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| Nota di contenuto | Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- Introduction: Striking Out -- CHAPTER 1. The You behind Your Eyes Is Out of Date -- CHAPTER 2. Can You Recall What You Had for Dinner, Cronus? -- CHAPTER 3. Shrink Wrap -- CHAPTER 4. Old Views of Old Age -- CHAPTER 5. Older, Yes, but Wiser? -- CHAPTER 6. The Dark Side of Wisdom -- CHAPTER 7. Homo Querelus (Man the Complainer) -- CHAPTER 8. Old Saints, Old Killers, and More Complaints -- CHAPTER 9. Complaining against the Most High -- CHAPTER 10. Giving Up Smoting for Good -- CHAPTER 11. Paralysis of the Spirit -- CHAPTER 12. Yes, You Can Take It with You -- CHAPTER 13. Owing the Dead -- CHAPTER 14. Going Soft -- CHAPTER 15. Little Things; or, What If? -- CHAPTER 16. Defying Augury -- CHAPTER 17. Frankly, I Do Give a Damn -- CHAPTER 18. Going through All These Things Twice -- CHAPTER 19. Do Not Go Gentle: A Valediction -- Addendum -- Acknowledgments -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index |
| Sommario/riassunto | In Losing It, William Ian Miller brings his inimitable wit and learning to the subject of growing old: too old to matter, of either rightly losing your confidence or wrongly maintaining it, culpably refusing to face the |

fact that you are losing it. The "it" in Miller's "losing it" refers mainly to mental faculties-memory, processing speed, sensory acuity, the capacity to focus. But it includes other evidence as well-sags and flaccidities, aches and pains, failing joints and organs. What are we to make of these tell-tale signs? Does growing old gracefully mean more than simply refusing unseemly cosmetic surgeries? How do we face decline and the final drawing of the blinds? Will we know if and when we have lingered too long? Drawing on a lifetime of deep study and anxious observation, Miller enlists the wisdom of the ancients to confront these vexed questions head on. Debunking the glossy new image of old age that has accompanied the graying of the Baby Boomers, he conjures a lost world of aging rituals-complaints, taking to bed, resentments of one's heirs, schemes for taking it with you or settling up accounts and scores-to remind us of the ongoing dilemmas of old age. Darkly intelligent and sublimely written, this exhilarating and eccentric book will raise the spirits of readers, young and old.
