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Titolo Cut loose: (mostly) older women talk about the end of (mostly) long-

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Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- PART ONE:

HE/SHE LEFT HER/HIM -- "If Not" and "I Give My Husband Fish Sausage"

/ Dougherty Delano, Page -- What Was Home / Silver, Laurie --

"Chapter Four You Break Up": A Journal / Nevins, Octavia -- Growing Up Middle Aged / Lopez-Mena, Marita -- Reflections on April Fool's Day / Raymond, Diane -- Talaq, Divorce / Saed, Zohra -- No More Romance for Me / O'Sullivan, Sue -- From Buddy to Joe to Harriet / Luria, Harriet -- So Much for "Happily Ever After" / Woronov, Naomi -- Dear Harry: Unsent E-mails to an Ex / Becker, Susan -- My Own Dance / Kaplan, Margie -- Event Horizon / Stuart, Mary -- The Only Life I

Have / Stieber Rous, Janice -- Observing the Cormorant / Berman,

Phyllis -- PART TWO: PERSPECTIVES ON BEING LEFT AND LEAVING --

Trashed / Burdick, Carol -- Marriage Comes and Goes but Sex Is Forever / Simcock, Anne -- Lost Love: The Nature of Romantic

Rejection / Fisher, Helen -- Leaking Affections: A Socio-psychoanalytic

View / Silver, Catherine B. -- What's Really Going on Here?: The Therapist's Perspective / Ogus Katz, Marilyn -- Divorce Is Economic Suicide / Dailey, Nancy -- Single Women at Midlife: The Always, Already

Dumped / Berke, Nancy -- Snow White and Rose Red Meet Their "Prince" / Giovanni, Isabella / Peacock, Annie -- Left Alone: Deserted by Death or Divorce / Froschl, Merle -- Splitsville: Break-up Literature / Bauer-Maglin, Nan -- Break-up Art / Weinberg, Louise -- Unholy Matrimony / Festa, Diana -- The Chore / Festa, Diana -- About the Contributors

## Sommario/riassunto

Although breakups-whether celebrity or everyday-are a constant source of fascination, surprisingly little attention has been given to women who are cut loose in their later years. This is a book about (mostly) long-term relationships that have come apart. Each woman involved, the majority of whom are over sixty, tells of her experience through journal entries, essays, poetry, or stories. Although in many senses they have been abandoned, they have also been set free. untethered, and, for some, liberated sexually, mentally, or emotionally. The book is divided into two major sections. The pieces in the first part are personal narratives. Among the varied voices, we hear from women in both heterosexual and same-sex relationships who have been left by their partners or who have decided to leave them. In the second section, the contributors look at being left and leaving from psychological, sociological, economic, sexual, medical, anthropological, and literary perspectives. Other essays explore the shared experiences of specific classes of women, such as single women, widows, or abandoned daughters.