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Autore	Heath Kay <1953->
Titolo	Aging by the book : the emergence of midlife in Victorian Britain / / Kay Heath
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (262 p.)
Collana	SUNY series, studies in the long nineteenth century
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Soggetti	Middle-aged women - Attitudes Middle-aged women - Great Britain - Social conditions Great Britain History Victoria, 1837-1901 Great Britain Social life and customs 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 225-239) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: The rise of midlife in Victorian Britain -- "No longer the man he was" : age anxiety in the male midlife marriage plot -- "The neutral man-woman" : female desexualization at midlife -- Marriageable at midlife : the remarrying widows of Frances Trollope and Anthony Trollope -- In the eye of the beholder : Victorian age construction and the specular self -- "How to keep young" : advertising and late-Victorian age anxiety -- Afterword: The future of midlife.
Sommario/riassunto	Aging by the Book offers an innovative look at the ways in which middle age, which for centuries had been considered the prime of life, was transformed during the Victorian era into a period of decline. Single women were nearing middle age at thirty, and mothers in their forties were expected to become sexless; meanwhile, fortyish men anguished over whether their "time for love had gone by." Looking at well-known novels of the period, as well as advertisements, cartoons, and medical and advice manuals, Kay Heath uncovers how this ideology of decline permeated a changing culture. Aging by the Book unmasks and confronts midlife anxiety by examining its origins, demonstrating that

our current negative attitude toward midlife springs from Victorian roots, and arguing that only when we understand the culturally constructed nature of age can we expose its ubiquitous and stealthy influence.
