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Nota di contenuto	Cover; LITERATURE; Copyright; CONTENTS; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS; 1 WHAT IS 'LITERATURE'?; Some (non-) definitions; 2 WHAT HAS 'LITERATURE' BEEN?: A History of the Concept, Part One: Origins to Orthodoxies; 3 WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO 'LITERATURE'?; A History of the Concept, Part Two: After the 1960's; 4 WHAT IS 'THE LITERARY'?; 5 THE USES OF 'THE LITERARY': News stories; 6 WATCH THIS SPACE; NOTES; REFERENCES
Sommario/riassunto	This introductory volume provides an overview of the history of Literature as a cultural concept, and reflects on the contemporary nature, place and function of what the literary might mean for us today. Literature: * offers a concise history of the canonic concept of 'literature' from its earliest origins * illustrates the kinds of theoretical issues which are currently invoked by the term 'literary' * provides a definition of the 'literary' for the twenty-first century With Literature Peter Widdowson provides a thought-provoking essay on the contemporary.