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| Note generali | Description based upon print version of record. |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Introduction : "the most hateful of professions?" -- 1. Canada and Oxford (1848-1873) -- 2. Jamaica (1873-1876) -- 3. Setting out the stall (1876-1880) -- 4. "A pedlar crying stuff" : selling the wares (1880-1889) -- 5. The stock in trade : writing science -- 6. The stock in trade : light fiction -- 7. The prosperous tradesman (1890-1895) -- 8. Dealing with the "dissenting grocer" -- 9. Retailing The woman who did -- 10. Last orders (1896-1899) -- Conclusion : "we of the proletariat..." |
| Sommario/riassunto | This book is a critical biography of Grant Allen, (1848-1899), the first for a century, based on all the surviving primary sources. Born in Kingston, Ontario, into a cultured and affluent family, Allen was educated in France and England. A mysterious marriage while he was an Oxford undergraduate wrecked his academic career and radicalized his views on sexual and marital questions, as did a three-year teaching stint in Jamaica. Despite his lifelong ill health and short life, Allen was a |

writer of extraordinary productivity and range. About half - more than 30 books and many hundreds of articles - reflects interests which ran from Darwinian biology to cultural travel guides. His prosperity, however, was underpinned by fiction; more than 30 novels, including *The Woman Who Did*, which has attracted much recent attention from feminist critics and historians. *The Better End of Grub Street* uses Allen's career to examine the role and status of the freelance author/journalist in the late-Victorian period. Allen's career delineates what it took to succeed in this notoriously tough profession.
