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Sommario/riassunto	Is there any escape from the awareness of pain and the bonds of an unending cycle of life? Why are human subject to craving? What is the nature of human beings? The Buddhist understanding of salvation is based upon such queries. A thorough grasp of the function of craving in religious life is strategic to an understanding of Buddhism, yet its role in the Buddhist plan of salvation is easy to oversimplify and misinterpret. Matthews examines the concept of craving in Buddhism from both a phenomenological and religious perspective. He brings to the task a critical examination of key canonical texts of the Sutta Pitaka (Nikayas) as well as extensive travel in research of the meaning of craving for contemporary Buddhists, from learned monks to lay

villagers. Having established the Buddhist perspective on how craving arises, how it affects the mind, and how it can be redirected, the volume concludes with spiritual implications of craving: crucial to awareness and freedom—emancipation—is the engagement and harnessing rather than suppression of craving. The volume will be of interest to students of Buddhism, historians of religion, and persons interested in basic human questions.
