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Titolo	This Long Pursuit : Reflections of a Romantic Biographer
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Nota di contenuto	Part I. Confessions -- Travelling -- Experimenting -- Teaching -- Forgetting -- Ballooning -- Part II. Restorations -- Margaret Cavendish -- Zelide -- Madame de Staél -- Mary Wollstonecraft -- Mary Somerville -- Part III. Afterlives -- John Keats the well-beloved -- Shelley undrowned -- Thomas Lawrence revarnished -- Coleridge misremembered -- William Blake rediscovered.
Sommario/riassunto	From the award-winning author of <i>The Age of Wonder</i> and <i>Falling Upwards</i> , here is a luminous meditation on the art of biography that fuses the author's own experiences with a history of the genre and explores the fascinating and surprising relationship between fact and fiction. In a book that ranges widely over art, science, and poetry, Richard Holmes confesses to a lifetime's obsession with his Romantic subjects. It has become for him a pursuit, or pilgrimage of the heart, that has taken him across three centuries, through much of Europe, and into the lively company of many earlier biographers. Central to this quest is a powerful and tender evocation of the lives of women both scientific and literary, some well-known and some almost lost to history: Margaret Cavendish, Mary Somerville, Germaine de Staél, Mary Wollstonecraft, and the Dutch intellectual Zelide. Holmes also investigates the myths that have overshadowed the lives of some favorite Romantic figures: the love-stunned John Keats, the waterlogged Percy Bysshe Shelley, the chocolate-box painter Thomas Lawrence, the opium-soaked genius Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and the

mad visionary bard William Blake. The diversity of Holmes's material is a testimony to his empathy, erudition, and inquiring spirit--and, sometimes, to his mischievous streak. The *Long Pursuit* gives us a unique insider's account of a biographer at work: traveling, teaching, researching, fantasizing, forgetting, and even ballooning. From this great chronicler of the Romantics now comes a chronicle of himself and his intellectual passions; it contains his most personal and most seductive writing.
