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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Ambition and archetype -- Li Xian's tomb -- Relative status -- Builders and painters -- Passages of rites -- Palatial quarters -- Pleasures and protocols -- Courtly women -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	Intellectually and visually stimulating, this important landmark book looks at the religious, political, social and artistic significance of the Imperial tombs of the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD). It traces the evolutionary development of the most elaborately beautiful imperial tombs to examine fundamental issues on death and the afterlife in one of the world's most sophisticated civilizations. Selected tombs are presented in terms of their structure, artistic programs and their purposes. The author sets the tombs in the context of Chinese attitudes towards the afterlife, the politics of mausoleu