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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Prelims; Contents; Introduction; 2 A Critique of Positive Humour; Part I - Historical Aspects; 3 Superiority Theories; 4 Incongruity Theories and Gentlemanly Laughter; 5 Victorian Relief Theory; 6 Bergson and the Function of Humour; 7 Freud and the Hidden Secrets of Jokes; Part II - II Theoretical Aspects; 8 Laughter and Unlaughter; 9 Embarrassment, Humour and the Social Order; 10 Final Remarks; References; Name Index; Subject Index
Sommario/riassunto	Tackling the assumption that laughter and humour are necessarily good in themselves, this text develops a critique of humour proposing a social theory that places humour in the form of ridicule as central to social life.