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Nota di contenuto	Preface 1. Etymologies: Getting to the Root of It 2. The Song of the Komos 3. The Lyre and the Phallus 4. Aristophanes: The One and Only? 5. Failure and Success 6. The Birds : The Uncensored Fantasy 7. Requiem for a Genre? 8. The Comic Catastrophe 9. O Menander! O Life! 10. Plautus Makes an Entrance 11. A Plautine Problem Play 12. Terence: The African Connection 13. The Mother-in-Law of Modern Comedy 14. Machiavelli: The Comedy of Evil 15. Marlowe: Schade and Freude 16. Shakespeare: Errors and Eros 17. Twelfth Night : Dark Clouds over Illyria 18. Moliere: The Class of '68 19. The Fox, the Fops, and the Factotum 20. Comedy Explodes 21. Beckett: The Death of Comedy Coda Notes Index
Sommario/riassunto	In a grand tour of comic theatre over the centuries, Erich Segal traces the evolution of the classical form from its early origins in a misogynistic quip by the 6th-century BC Susarion, through countless weddings and happy endings, to the exasperated monosyllables of Samuel Beckett.