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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface to the New Edition; Preface to the First Edition; 1 Please Don 't Feed the Bugbears; 1 The Perennial, Gripping Problem; 2 The Bogeymen; 3 Sphexishness and Other Worries; 4 Overview; 2 Making Reason Practical; 1 Where Do Reasons Come From?; 2 Semantic Engines, Perpetual Motion Machines, and a DefectiveIntuition Pump; 3 Reflection, Language, and Consciousness; 4 Community, Communication, and Transcendence; 3 Control and Self-Control; 1 " Due to Circumstances Beyond Our Control "; 2 Simple Control and Simple Self-Control; 3 Agentless Control and Our Concept of Causation 4 Agents in Competition5 The Uses of Disorder; 6 " Let Yourself Go "; 4 Self-Made Selves; 1 The Problem of the Disappearing Self; 2 The Art of Self-Definition; 3 Trying Our Luck; 4 Overview; 5 Acting Under the Idea of Freedom; 1 How Can You Go On Deliberating at a Time Like This?; 2 Designing the Perfect Deliberator; 3 Real Opportunities; 4 ""Avoid,"" ""Avoidable,"" ""Inevitable""; 6 ""Could Have Done Otherwise""; 1 Do We Care Whether We Could Have Done Otherwise?; 2 What We Care About; 3 The Can of Worms; 7 Why Do We Want Free Will?; 1 Nihilism Neglected 2 Diminished Responsibility and the Specter of Creeping Exculpation3 The Dread Secret Denied; Afterword; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	"In this landmark 1984 work on free will, Daniel Dennett makes a case for compatibilism. His aim, as he writes in the preface to this new edition, was a cleanup job, 'saving everything that mattered about the

everyday concept of free will, while jettisoning the impediments.' In Elbow Room, Dennett argues that the varieties of free will worth wanting--those that underwrite moral and artistic responsibility--are not threatened by advances in science but distinguished, explained, and justified in detail. Dennett tackles the question of free will in a highly original and witty manner, drawing on the theories and concepts of fields that range from physics and evolutionary biology to engineering, automata theory, and artificial intelligence. He shows how the classical formulations of the problem in philosophy depend on misuses of imagination, and he disentangles the philosophical problems of real interest from the 'family of anxieties' in which they are often enmeshed--imaginary agents and bogeymen, including the Peremptory Puppeteer, the Nefarious Neurosurgeon, and the Cosmic Child Whose Dolls We Are. Putting sociobiology in its rightful place, he concludes that we can have free will and science too. He explores reason, control and self-control, the meaning of 'can' and 'could have done otherwise,' responsibility and punishment, and why we would want free will in the first place. A fresh reading of Dennett's book shows how much it can still contribute to current discussions of free will. This edition includes as its afterword Dennett's 2012 Erasmus Prize essay"--MIT CogNet.

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