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Nota di contenuto	Preface -- Prologue -- La Belle Époque in Brünn. Beginnings -- School Days. A New Nation -- Moving to the Capital. Student Life in 1920's Vienna -- The Wiener Kreis and the Mathematical Colloquium. Graduate work -- Private Life in Vienna -- Gödel's Doctoral Thesis. The Incompleteness Theorems -- The Mathematician in Vienna. Habilitation -- Matters of Health -- A Sojourn Abroad: 1933/34 -- Princeton -- Back to Vienna. The First Breakdown -- 'Commuting' between Vienna and Princeton -- The Late 1930's. Marriage -- The Continuum Hypothesis -- Professional Uncertainty. A Long Journey Eastwards -- Princeton and

the IAS – Philosophy, Einstein and von Neumann. A Bizarre Birthday Present: Gödel's Universe -- Reception, Recognition, Honors. Einstein's Loss. The Professor at Princeton -- The 1960's: Fame and Seclusion -- Later Years. Philosophy, Cosmology, Logic, Computability -- Gödel's Legacy – The Lessons of an Unusual Life -- Epilogue. .

Sommario/riassunto

During his lifetime, Kurt Gödel was not well known outside the professional world of mathematicians, philosophers and theoretical physicists. Early in his career, for his doctoral thesis and then for his Habilitation (Dr.Sci.), he wrote earthshaking articles on the completeness and provability of mathematical-logical systems, upsetting the hypotheses of the most famous mathematicians/philosophers of the time. He later delved into theoretical physics, finding a unique solution to Einstein's equations for gravity, the 'Gödel Universe', and made contributions to philosophy, the guiding theme of his life. This book includes more details about the context of Gödel's life than are found in earlier biographies, while avoiding an elaborate treatment of his mathematical/scientific/philosophical works, which have been described in great detail in other books. In this way, it makes him and his times more accessible to general readers, and will allow them to appreciate the lasting effects of Gödel's contributions (the latter in a more up-to-date context than in previous biographies, many of which were written 15–25 years ago). His work spans or is relevant to a wide spectrum of intellectual endeavor, and this is emphasized in the book, with recent examples. This biography also examines possible sources of his unusual personality, which combined mathematical genius with an almost childlike naiveté concerning everyday life, and striking scientific innovations with timidity and hesitancy in practical matters. How he nevertheless had a long and successful career, inspiring many younger scholars along the way, with the help of his loyal wife Adele and some of his friends, is a fascinating story in human nature.
