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Sommario/riassunto	Prologue: May 16, 1960, Malibu, California. 1. The Laser Race. 2. Microwaves Are the First Step. 3. Leaping a Few Orders of Magnitude: The Optical Maser. 4. The Outsider's Invention: The Laser. 5. Bell Labs

Takes the Early Lead. 6. Stimulating the Emission of Money. 7. A Spreading Interest in the Laser Idea. 8. A Pause to Compare Notes. 9. A Dark Horse Joins the Race. 10. "Everybody knew it was going to happen within months"-Bell Labs Feels Safely in the Lead. 11. A Crash Program at "Pipsqueak Inc.". 12. The Siren Call of the Laser. 13. The Critical Question of Efficiency. 14. An Idea Simp

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