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Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title Page; Copyright; Contents; Notes on Contributors; Preface; Acknowledgments; Introduction; The Eightfold Path and the Gradual Path; Pragmatic and Transcendental Buddhism; Part I Buddhists in the Earliest and Medieval Eras; Chapter 1 The Female Householder Mallika; Introduction:Mallika's Historical, Geographical, and Cultural Context; Mallika's Biography; Reflections on How This Individual's Life Relates to the Buddhist Community; Chapter 2 Bhadda Kundalakesa: The Ex-Jain; Introduction; The Biographical Details of Bhadda Kundalakesa in Other Texts; Conclusion Chapter 3 Two Noted Householders of the Buddha's Time: Upasika Vishakha and Upasaka AnathapindikaAnathapindika the Upasaka; Vishakha the Upasika; Chapter 4 Nagarjuna: The Great Philosopher; Introduction; Second-Century Mathura; Mahayana Traditions in Mathura; Monastic Life in Mathura; Nagarjuna, a Brahmin Monk; Nagarjuna in Andhra Pradesh; Conclusion; Chapter 5 Who Is Uncle Donpa?; Introduction; Uncle Donpa and Trickster Tales in Tibet;

Traditional Interpretations; Contemporary Interpretations; Conclusions;
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 Spiritual Innovator: Chod Tradition; The Legacy of Ma-chig Lab-dron;
 Part II Buddhist Lives in the West; Chapter 7 I.B. Horner and the
 Twentieth-Century Development of Buddhism in the West; Introduction:
 Colonial Context, the Centrality of Texts, and the Authority of European
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 Chapter 10 Conversion, Devotion, and (Trans-)Mission: Understanding
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 First Charismatic Phase: Foundations (1972-1982)
 Second Charismatic Phase: Transition (1982-1992)"Twenty Years on
 the Road": The Making of a Lama; Third Charismatic Phase:The Global
 Schism and Diamond Way Expansion (1992-2007); Conclusion:
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 11 Noah Levine: Punk Rocker and Buddhist Meditation Teacher; The
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 Punk Rock Music; Turning Point: Becoming a "Spiritual Person";
 Committing to Buddhism; Mixing Punk with Buddhism: The Teaching
 Style of Noah Levine
 Noah Levine's Life Story and Its Relation to the Buddhist Tradition

Sommario/riassunto

"Understanding Buddhism provides a series of case studies of Asian and modern Western Buddhists, spanning history, gender, and class, whose lives are representative of the ways in which Buddhists throughout time have embodied the tradition. Portrays the foundational principles of Buddhist belief through the lives of believers, illustrating how the religion is put into practice in everyday life. Takes as its foundation the inherent diversity within Buddhist society, rather than focusing on the spiritual and philosophical elite within Buddhism. Its compelling biographical genre reveals how individuals have negotiated the choices, tensions, and rewards of living in a Buddhist society. Case studies have been carefully chosen to cover a range of Asian and modern Western Buddhists. The text convey a full sample of possible Buddhist orientations in contemporary and historical contexts"

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"Understanding Buddhism redresses this imbalance by exploring a fascinating series of life histories of individuals whose lives are far more representative of the ways in which Buddhists throughout time have embodied the tradition"--