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Autore	Segal Erich <1937-2010.>
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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.