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Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Title; Copyright; Contents; Series editor foreword; Acknowledgements; Abbreviations; 1 Introduction; 2 Gendered divinity; 3 Shaping women's lives; 4 Women poets of Hinduism; 5 Sanctuary; 6 Conclusion; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This book accounts for the origin and evolution of the nature and roles of women within the Hindu belief system. It explains how the idea of the goddess has been derived from Hindu philosophical ideas and texts of codes of conduct and how particular models of conduct for mortal women have been created. Hindu religious culture correlates philosophical speculation and social imperatives to situate femininity on a continuum from divine to mortal existence. This creates in the Hindu consciousness multiple - often contradictory - images of women, both as wielders and subjects of authority. The