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Sommario/riassunto	Detailing what is at the center of the troubled American auto industry, this story is described by the people most affected by it as they confront 2009, which is bound to be their year of decision. It is not only Detroit's fate that hangs in the balance but also dozens of places such as Kokomo, Indiana-home to three generations of auto workers, many of whom are descended from the original pioneers in the state. The exploration focuses on Chrysler in particular and the citizens of Kokomo: union leaders, salaried plant managers, and elected local officials,