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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. The Brain's Contingency Calculator: The Secret of Our Success -- 2. The Brain's Output: Behavior's Many Forms -- 3. The Human Brain: An Embarrassment of Riches -- 4. Building the Brain's Contingency Circuit -- 5. When Life Distorts the Contingency Filters -- 6. Fine-Tuning the Contingency Calculators: Well-Grounded Lessons from Rats, Comedians, and Triple-Crown Horse Owners -- 7. Parenting: Time to Recalculate Life's Contingencies -- 8. Calculating Effective Strategies for Treating Mental Illness -- 9. Getting Down to Business: Putting the Contingency Calculators to Work -- 10. Stretching the Contingency Limits: New and Imagined Realities -- Epilogue: Redefining Prosperity-From Strategic Champagne Bubbles to Accurately Perceived Life Affordances -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	A neuroscientist reveals unique aspects of decision making and the best strategies for protecting and enhancing the brain's ability to navigate life's uncertainties Contingency calculations-the ability to predict the outcomes of decisions and actions-are critical for survival and success. Our amazing brains continually process past and current experiences to enable us to make the most adaptive choices. But when the brain's information systems are compromised-by such varying conditions as drug addiction, poverty, mental illness, or even privilege- we can lose the ability to arrive at informed decisions. In this engaging book, behavioral neuroscientist Kelly Lambert explores a

variety of the modern factors that can lead to warped neural processing, or distorted realities she terms "brain bubbles." Individuals who define success in terms of creature comforts and immediate gratification, for instance, may interact less with the physical and social world and thereby dull their ability to imagine varied contingency scenarios. The author underscores how continuous, meaningful, and well-grounded experiences are required if we are to make the best decisions throughout our lives.
