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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- 1. Time without a Beginning? -- 2. On the Great Book of Moses -- 3. Genesis as Viewed through the Prism of Natural Philosophy -- 4. Nature's Admirable Medals -- 5. The March of the Comets -- 6. Heroic Age, Relative Time -- 7. The Long History of Two Barons -- 8. The Elasticity of Time -- 9. The Pandora's Box of Physics -- 10. The Sun, the Earth, Radioactivity-and Kelvin's Death -- 11. The Long Quest of Arthur Holmes -- 12. From the Atomic Bomb to the Age of the Earth -- Epilogue -- Appendix: Mathematical Complements -- Source Notes -- Suggestions for Further Reading and Reference -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The quest to pinpoint the age of the Earth is nearly as old as humanity itself. For most of history, people trusted mythology or religion to provide the answer, even though nature abounds with clues to the past of the Earth and the stars. In A Natural History of Time, geophysicist Pascal Richet tells the fascinating story of how scientists and philosophers examined those clues and from them built a chronological scale that has made it possible to reconstruct the history of nature itself. Richet begins his story with mythological traditions, which were heavily influence...