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Sommario/riassunto	Filling a major gap in the critical canon, Keaton's Classic Shorts: Beyond the Laughter chronicles the rapid growth in the filmmaker's understanding of what makes both comedy and film successful. Keaton developed his major themes in these nineteen silent short films shot between 1920 and 1923, creating his persona "Buster" with his trademark stone face. These short films clearly indicate Keaton's love of the camera and his concern for composition, symmetry, and images that delight the eye and startle the mind. Oldham reconstructs each of these rarely seen films