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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Preface -- Abbreviations -- Chapter 1 Signposts Unregarded -- Chapter 2 The Brownings of Southampton Street -- Chapter 3 The Education of a Would-Be Poet -- Chapter 4 Filling the Reservoir -- Chapter 5 Browning Aspires to Be Shelley -- Chapter 6 Browning Aspires to Be Shakespeare -- Chapter 7 A Literary Disaster -- Chapter 8 Browning as Dramatist for Closet and Stage -- Chapter 9 Varieties of Poetic Monodrama Dramatic Lyrics -- Chapter 10 Another Duchess and a Dying Bishop -- Chapter 11 A Worthy Fellow Poet -- Chapter 12 Miss Barrett's Mysterious Illness -- Chapter 13 Monodramatic Developments Dramatic Romances and Lyrics -- Chapter 14 Some Surprises about the Barrett Household -- Chapter 15 Robert Awakes without a Headache -- Chapter 16 Flight to Italy -- Chapter 17 Joys and Sorrows -- Chapter 18 Christmas-Eve and Easter-Day -- Chapter 19 London and Paris -- Chapter 20 The International Life -- Chapter 21 Dreamwork -- Chapter 22 Withdrawal into the Creative Life -- Chapter 23 Spirits from the Vasty Deep -- Chapter 24 Troubles in London -- Chapter 25 Men and Women -- Chapter 26 "It is high time that this sort of thing be stopped" -- Chapter 27 That Little-Seeming Substance -- Chapter 28 The Good of Poetry -- Chapter 29 Fathers, Sons, Books -- Chapter 30 Complex Poetry -- Chapter 31 Fame and Its Discontents -- Chapter 32 At Play in the Land of Souls -- Chapter 33 House and Shop -- Chapter 34 English Roses and Florentine Lilies --

The Dramatic Imagination of Robert Browning offers an accessible and authoritative guide to the essentials of Robert Browning's life and poetry. Drawing from his personal letters and from the diaries and memoirs of his contemporaries, this literary biography provides a wealth of information about the main events of his life, including the social, political, religious, and aesthetic issues that concerned him; it offers critical commentary defining the central characteristics of his poetry; and it tracks the changes in his reputation through contemporary reviews and the growth of the Browning societies. An English poet who was deeply responsive to European culture and affairs, Robert Browning has sometimes been dismissed by modern readers for his obscurity or roughness of language. Now two distinguished scholars of Browning's work trace the arc of his development as an artist and thinker from his earliest poems to the last in his long and remarkably productive career. The authors illustrate how Browning moved from describing "incidents in the development of a soul," to developing his reader's soul as collaborator in the artistic process, to the development of his own soul in the making of poetry. Through a fresh reading of not only his poetry but also the letters of both Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, they have garnered details that situate the two in historical context, provide a vivid sense of Robert's personality, and also correct biases against Elizabeth's influence. Their critical commentary focuses on the poet's dramatic imagination and argues that his extensive body of work after *The Ring* and the *Book*, often dismissed as evidencing a decline in his poetic powers represented new directions in his poetry marked by inventive dialogue, verbal puzzles, and virtuoso rhyming. Written to appeal to both general readers and scholars, the book will enable anyone to read Browning's poems with a firm sense of the subjects and practices that are central to his texts, along with a knowledge of their context in the poet's life and thought. The Dramatic Imagination of Robert Browning invites readers of a singular body of poetry to achieve a new understanding of Browning's work and a greater appreciation of his life.