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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: Aims and Terms -- From Classical to Modern: The Arc from Ethical to Social Conceptions -- The Dominant Modernist Conception of Comedy: Premises and Elisions -- The Late Modernist Conception of Comedy: Premises and Elisions -- Twin Modernist Elisions -- The Interlude of Postmodernist Conceptions -- Comedy in Contemporary Thought -- Epilogue: The Contemporary Idea of Comedy -- Reference List.
Sommario/riassunto	One of the few constants in Western critical thought for over twomillennia has been the inexhaustible fascination with comedy: what it is and how it works. Yet comedy has eluded every definition. Why have so many of the leading critics and philosophers of the West proposed theories and counter-theories of comedy while often admitting that it enthralls and baffles the mind in equal measure? The Idea of Comedy: A Critique assembles a rich corpus of materials from different languages and eras to construct a history of the commentaries and reflections, the theoretical postulates and conjectures, and the often acrimonious debates about comedy through the centuries from Plato and Aristotle to our contemporaries