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| Nota di contenuto | To free the slaves -- Carrying the war into Africa -- Framing the charges -- The indictment -- The jury is summoned -- The testimony begins -- The name and the shadow of a fair trial -- The quiet was deceptive -- The verdict -- The sentence -- The execution -- Marching on. |
| Sommario/riassunto | Mixing idealism with violence, abolitionist John Brown cut a wide swath across the United States before winding up in Virginia, where he led an attack on the U.S. armory and arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Supported by a "provisional army" of 21 men, Brown hoped to rouse the slaves in Virginia to rebellion. But he was quickly captured and, after a short but stormy trial, hanged on December 2, 1859. Brian McGinty provides the first comprehensive account of the trial, which raised important questions about jurisdiction, judicial fairness, and the nature of treason under the American constitutional system. |