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Einstein's breakthroughs in special and general relativity, cosmology, black holes, the principle of the expanding universe, quantum physics, and unified scientific theory are some of the best-known discoveries of the previous century. But how these discoveries were linked to the findings of those who came before him_Galileo, Newton, Copernicus, and Eddington, to name a few_is an aspect of this twentieth-century icon's life and work that until now remained largely unexplored. In addition to having stood on the shoulders of many scientific giants, Einstein also made significant errors of both a scientific and a personal nature. In this revisionist biography, Hans Ohanian takes a close and impartial look at the man who has become synonymous with the concept of genius itself. Ohanian looks beyond roughly hewn caricatures that render Einstein a mad scientist and an absentminded professor to give us a glimpse of the man on whom the legends are based. 25 illustrations.