

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910418349403321
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Titolo	The journey : stories // by K.C. Das ; translated by Phyllis Granoff
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ann Arbor, Michigan : , : University of Michigan Press, , 2000
ISBN	0-472-12831-0 0-89148-081-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (158 p.)
Collana	Michigan Papers on South and Southeast Asia ; ; no. 48
Altri autori (Persone)	GranoffP. E <1947-> (Phyllis Emily)
Disciplina	016.37
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Once I had an auntie -- Jasmine bud and the servant girl -- When God is king -- Fly away little birdie -- Chakadi's Krishna -- Not just compassion -- Alleyway cinema -- Mr. Absent-minded, his wife, and company -- Journey.
Sommario/riassunto	K. C. Das is deservedly one of the most celebrated writers in India today. He writes primarily in Oriya, the language of his native state of Orissa, where he was born in 1924. A civil servant by profession, Das pursued a second career as a writer of stories, poems, and essays. The stories in this collection take place in an urban setting. The characters are mainly middle class, making them more accessible to North American readers than other examples of contemporary Indian fiction. These are not simple stories. They are about "divides," about gaps between realities and imagination. In complex shifts between direct dialogue, interior monologue, and interior or imagined dialogue, Das lovingly but mercilessly exposes his characters' thoughts, self-deceptions, and the games they play with each other. These are stories about human weaknesses, the fallibility of human relationships, and the strategies we adopt to cope with our failures. They are about coming to terms with unpleasant, sometimes shocking truths about ourselves and others.