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Nota di contenuto	Acknowledgements -- Introduction: an anthropology of separation -- 1. Two festival of reunion -- 2. The etiquette of parting and return -- 3. Greeting and sending-off the dead -- 4. The ambivalent threshold -- 5. Commensality as reunion -- 6. Women and the obligation to return -- 7. Developing a sense of history -- 8. Classical narratives of separation and reunion -- 9. The politics of separation and reunion in China and Taiwan -- Conclusion: the separation constraint -- Notes -- References -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	In this original and readable book, Charles Stafford describes the Chinese fascination with separation and reunion. Drawing on his field studies in Taiwan and mainland China, he gives a vivid account of raucous festivals of reunion, elaborate rituals for the sending-off of gods (and daughters), poetic moments of leave-takings between

friends, and bitter political rhetoric about Chinese national unity. The idioms and practices of separation and reunion - which are woven into the fabric of daily life - help people to explain the passions aroused by the possibility of national division. In this book, the discussion of everyday rituals leads into a unique and accessible general introduction to Chinese and Taiwanese society and culture.

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