

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788214203321
Autore	Guo Songfen <1938-2005, >
Titolo	Running mother and other stories / / Guo Songfen ; edited and with an introduction by John Balcom
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Columbia University Press, , 2009 ©2009
ISBN	0-231-51930-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (272 p.)
Collana	Modern Chinese Literature from Taiwan
Disciplina	895.1/352
Soggetti	LITERARY CRITICISM / General
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Foreword: Summer 1961 / Lee, Stella -- Introduction: Guo Songfen, Taiwan's "Lost" Modernist / Balcom, John -- Moon Seal: translated by Michelle Yeh -- Wailing Moon: translated by Yingtsih Balcom -- Running Mother: translated by Yingtsih Balcom -- Clover: translated by Hayes Moore and Lee Yu -- Snow Blind: translated by Foster Robertson and Lee Yu -- Brightly Shine The Stars Tonight: translated by John Balcom
Sommario/riassunto	Guo Songfen's short stories are masterful psychological portraits that play with the echoes of history and the nature of identity. One of the few modernists to truly capture the fallout from such events as the February 28th Incident and the White Terror, Guo Songfen illuminates the quiet core of his characters through a spare and immediate style that is at once a symptom and an allegory of the trauma in which they live. In "Running Mother," a man is torn between his fear of abandonment and his guilt over leaving his family, and therefore his symbolic home, behind. "Moon Seal" follows a woman caught between traditional and modern worlds. In "Wailing Moon," a wife learns a shocking secret after her husband's death, realizing he was never the man she thought him to be. Set in the United States and Taiwan, "Snow Blind" is a multigenerational triptych that portrays the consequences of spiritual malaise, and in "Brightly Shines the Stars Tonight," a general wrestles with issues of memory and self-perception in the final moments before his execution. Guo Songfen's stories play with the

hazards of miscommunication, the malevolence of human will, the arbitrary nature of fate, and the burden of historical circumstance. As the general discovers, life is a game of chess, the outcome of which is never certain though it might be logically designed. Showcasing the best of Taiwan's modernist style, these stories are not only an indictment of the human condition but also a powerful comment on the experience of post retrocession Taiwan.
