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Sommario/riassunto Engaging Banality: Stories of the Salaried Life by Kuroi Senji features

three of the best-known works of Kuroi Senji's early career. \'Hole and Sky\' (1968), Time (1969) and Running Family (1970) received widespread critical attention in Japan and have been reprinted many times, yet none has been translated until now. In its own way each story reveals the profound ambivalence increasing numbers of Japanese began to feel toward their lives as their desires were channelled into the nation's single-minded goal of achieving high-speed economic growth. The stories are preceded by a critical introduction that situates

Kuroi's development and ethos as a writer within the context of profound socio-cultural change spanning the end of World War II

through the early 1970s.