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Title: **THE KID ON THE TRAIN**
(IL BAMBINO DEL TRENO)

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THE STORY OF A FATHER, A FASCIST STATIONMASTER, AND HIS RACE AGAINST TIME TO REACH THE TRAIN HIS SON – AS A GAME, OR PERHAPS FOR LOVE - HAS BOARDED. A TRAIN BOUND FOR AUSCHWITZ

Giovannino Tini has passed the public exam to become a stationmaster, but - despite his misgivings - has been forced to join the PNF (The National Fascist party) to have a chance at a career. He starts his new job in the station of Fornello in June 1935, accompanied by his pregnant wife, a dog of uncertain breed and two bicycles which cannot be used because there is nowhere nearby to ride them: in the Apennine valley where the station sits there are only mule tracks and mountains. Three months later, their son Romeo is born, and the child grows up surrounded by deep snow, trains which pass through without stopping and the unchanging rhythms of nature.

The valley seems almost to have been forgotten by the regime. One evening in December 1943, however, a train unlike the others shatters their isolation. Aboard are men, women and children headed for Germany. Romeo meets Flavia, a Jewish girl who comes from far away, and an intense relationship springs up between the two, along with a powerful desire to be together. This is the reason why, the morning when the train departs, Romeo is accidentally boarded along with the other deportees.

Seventy years later the station is closed and the valley abandoned, and only one of Romeo's friends remains to tell their story. **With its powerful, refined style, *The Kid on the Train* accompanies us through the childhood of generation which was ruined by dictatorship, racial laws and war.**

"Is a story of people and places, protagonists capable of preserving innocence and simplicity. The intensity of the language and the ability of narration are the virtues of Paolo Casadio." **Corriere della Sera**

"An uninterrupted *coup de coeur*, narrated with grace and a remarkable literary style. But is first of all a superb love story, a story of survival, of scratched hands, of hard work and also a story of wonder and dismay". **Il Foglio**

"In rural Tuscany the lightning of the Shoah. (...) An hypnotic narration". **La Repubblica**

Paolo Casadio made his debut with the novel *La Quarta Estate* (Piemme, 2014), it won several literary Awards: **the 17th Prix Ravenna**, the **National Dolphin Prize of Costa Pisana 2015**, the **International Montefiore Conca Award 2015**, the **International Award for a Debut Novel Cinqueterre-Sirio-Guerrieri 2015**, the **Jury Award of the International Prize "Città di Pontremoli 2016"**, the **Prize "Cattolica 2016"**, the **30° Massarosa Prize for debut novel**, the **Carver Prize 2017** and the **Francesco Serantini Prize 2017**. *Il bambino del treno* has won the **San Domenichino Literary Award, Città di Massa 2018**.