

Davide Rondoni
If you were here

AUTHOR: Davide Rondoni
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 narrative, for readers from 12
 years on
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**Winner of the
 Andersen Prize 2015**

Best is eleven years old. He has been living with his uncle Tomlinson on the edge of a large marsh. His father, whom he has not seen for a long time and he would like to meet, is a lighthouse keeper on the sea, far away beyond the marsh. Best has few friends. At school he is being mobbed by an obnoxious kid with the complicity of others, so that Best is suspended from school because of bad behaviour. Among the false witnesses there is Rosa too, the girl Best is secretly in love with. His uncle decides to let Best meet with people who have known his father: a childhood friend and now a murderer; a woman who has loved him; a sculptor who tells how he and Best's father reconstructed the local sawmill; the mayor of the small town who is a real wheeler-dealer; a sailor whose life has been saved by Best's father... The result is a fascinating portrait of Best's father. Now Best is feeling a stronger desire to meet him. He runs away from home to cross the marsh and, surprisingly,

Davide Rondoni was born in Forlì in 1964. He is one of the most renowned contemporary poet, writes for some of the major Italian newspapers («Corriere della Sera», «Il Sole 24 ore», «L'Avvenire») and collaborates with radios and tv networks (Rai, Tv2000, San Marino Tv). His books about arts, religion, literature and poetry are published by the finest Italian publishing houses. He recently published: *If the sky burns out* (Frassinelli 2015), *The kiss of Siviglia* (2016), first volume of the "Exaggerated lives" series, which he edited for Edizioni San Paolo, *Against literature* (Bompiani, 2016), *Bastard's nature* (Mondadori, 2016) and *The Skylark and the Fire. Fifty Poems that enlighten Life* (La nave di Teseo, 2017).

Abroad translations of his poetry collections:

Un bonheur dur. Edition bilingue français-italien, Jean-Pierre Lemaire (Préface), Christophe Carraud (traduction), Cheyne, Devesset, France, 2005;

El Bar Del Tiempo Y Otros Poemas, Monte Avila, Caracas, Venezuela, 2008.

On Davide Rondoni:

G.M. Pell, Davide Rondoni. *Art in Movement of Creation*, New York, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2016.