# THE BEAM NOBODY THANKED



FERDINANDO FREGA

# THE BEAM NOBODY THANKED

The house was beautiful.

Guests.

Photographs.

Toasts.

Nobody ever went down to the cellar.

Important things often have this flaw.

They work where nobody looks.

Then, one day, someone removed a beam.

For space.

For looks.

To save money.

Nothing collapsed.

Not that day.

On the contrary.

For a while it seemed like a good idea.

People look at buildings.

They rarely look at foundations.

They admire success.

They ignore the system that holds it up.

Every organization has a skeleton.

Every family.

Every business.

Every friendship.

Even every failure.

It does not appear in photographs.

It is not celebrated.

And yet it carries all the weight.

You only notice it when it is missing.

Like oxygen.

Like trust.

Like credibility.

Many look for answers in events.

I have learned to look for them in structures.

Events make noise.

Skeletons work in silence.

And when they stop doing so, the collapse seems sudden.

To everyone.

Except to the beam.

**Ferdinando**