



**Marco Erba**  
***The purple house***

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Clelia's life is perfect and a future of glory awaits her thanks to the President, the supreme authority of her town. There is only one jarring element: the *Purple House*, a building said to be inhabited by a monstrous old man. The disquieting *Purple House*, however, draws her, causing odd visions and opening cracks in her soul. Clelia will thus discover pain and loss and look life's imperfection in the face: is a flawless life or an authentic existence better? Can unforeseen events turn into opportunities? A story of growth and training, showing how each obstacle can become a launch pad.

***I don't want a perfect life, I want a happy life. There is no happiness without pain, there is no happiness without love. There is no happiness without freedom.***

**Marco Erba** lives in Milan where he teaches Italian literature in high school. His first novel, *Fra me e te*, was published by Rizzoli and won the Premio Città di Cuneo amongst other prizes. With Rizzoli he also published *Quando mi riconoscerai*, *Ci bacciamo a settembre* and *Città d'argento*. He has also published *Insegnare non basta* (Vallardi). Also published by Ancora is *Il segreto della Spada Rubina* (2020), a fable about the power of forgiveness.

