

NATHALIE HANDAL

Une Fin

There will be no broken chair, no unlit lamp, no left conversation, there will be no crushed galaxies, we will memorize the Greek gods for clarity and pray to the Roman gods for liberty, Aragon will guide us, we will no longer turn blue of wound in the empty rooms of after lives, we will no longer be bruised, our bodies folded in half like forgotten fairytales, like the beaten frame of doors where we declared our name. What's a land, what's a land? The country we pretend to go to when we can't find the form of our faces. We will never see the sea the way we saw it together nor the wind that push us back into an old language we refuse to forget, like a book unopened after decades, the pages braced together. Where are the gods in our blames? But let's not leave yet. After all, we've just arrived.

NATHALIE HANDAL was raised in Latin America, France and the Arab world, and educated in the United States and United Kingdom. Poet, playwright and literary travel writer, her recent books include the flash collection *The Republics*, winner of the Virginia Faulkner Award for Excellence in Writing and Arab American Book Award; the bestselling bilingual collection *La estrella invisible / The Invisible Star*; the critically acclaimed *Poet in Andalucía*; and *Love and Strange Horses*, winner of the Gold Medal Independent Publisher

Book Award. Handal is a Lannan Foundation Fellow, Centro Andaluz de las Letras Fellow, Fondazione di Venezia Fellow, and winner of the Alejo Zuloaga Order in Literature, among other honors. She is a professor at Columbia University and writes the column *The City and the Writer* for *Words without Borders*.