

MHANI ALAOUI

Anna's House

BEITHE WAS A LOUD CITY. It had the loudness of a city not yet used to itself. Steel clicked against steel and stone echoed stone. There was no respite from its noise.

On a bend in the road in the center of Beithe, there stood a house. It was known to all the town-dwellers as Anna's House. Though no one knew why. For in fact, the house belonged to a young woman called Sarah and no Anna was ever seen or remembered to have lived in that house on a bend in the road in the center of town.

And in Sarah's house, there was silence. The loudness and noise never entered Sarah's house. Every day, she would wake up to its quietness and breathe in its lightness. Sarah had quickly taken for granted its quietness and lightness.