

Contents

Preface to the Paperback Edition ix

Prologue xiii

Egypt

Empty Talk 3

Inside the Word Factory 10

A Prophecy 20

Two Tongues 29

See What We Did 37

Where's Your Ear? 44

Days of Rage 52

Hidden Fingers 60

Illuminating the House 67

Graduation Day 75

The Gulf

Knowledge Village 83

Practical, Fashion, Extreme 92

When Your Ear Hears 101

Eau de Facebook 106

What He Did Not Know 113

Heritage Club 119

The Best People 125

Supreme Poets 135

Develop! 142

Lebanon

- The New Beirut 153
What Is the Rule? 159
We Don't Talk About Politics Here 165
Almost a Dead Language 176
Your Mother 184
Easy — but Not Good 190
The Weird Uncle 200
Pierre and His Friends 207
We Have Not Taught the Prophet the Price 214
Land of Thorns 222

Morocco

- Daddy, Mommy, Gramps 233
The Place Where the Sun Sets 240
You Pour the Tea 247
God Is Beautiful 254
Speaking Mexican 263
Let's Chat in Arabic 269
Sweet Sensation 274
Up in the Old Hotel 281
What Is the Name of This? 287
Crossing the Bridge 297
- Afterword to the Paperback Edition* 305
Acknowledgments 311
Notes 315