



## Unhomed Ece Temelkuran

*In Nation of Strangers, you use the word 'unhomed' rather than 'exiled' to describe your experience since you left Turkey in 2016.*

I think there is a certain romantic exoticism attached to the word "exile" that I am deeply suspicious of. In my case, it lends itself too easily to a narrative in which I am this exotic damsel in distress fleeing from a tyrant and finding a refuge in the civilised west. That story makes people feel good about themselves even if their own home country is in political turmoil. So, in the book, I wanted to make it clear that, whenever I speak about myself, I am also speaking about the human condition – and not just as it is experienced by refugees and immigrants.

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