

A Perfect Armenian Author, Keri Topouzian, Bio



Dr. Keri Topouzian was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan where he currently lives with his wife and four children while practicing medicine in both Grand Rapids and Detroit. His grandparents hailed from Ancient Armenia, each immigrating to the U.S. in the early 1900's.

Topouzian started writing "A Perfect Armenian" in 2003 and published the novel 7 years later. As a boy, his mother, a journalist, would critique all of his school papers with a discerning eye until they were perfect. Later in life he realized this was a blessing in disguise. His love of writing was further developed while preparing elaborate proposals for a medical document transcription company he had once owned. He found through this business that he enjoyed taking abstract ideas and putting them to paper.

Topouzian's first novel is rooted in the history of his own grandparents and the extraordinary lives they were forced to lead during World War I. His grandparents hailed from four different villages in Ancient Armenia (now part of Turkey), each immigrating separately to the United States. Keri's paternal grandmother, Varsenig, came from the village of Tchingiler, a city that is an integral part of "A Perfect Armenian". In 1915, Turkish soldiers forced Varsenig, her family and the rest of their village to walk from their homes to the desert near Damascus, Syria. They walked hundreds of miles because the soldiers had convinced the villagers that they were traveling to safety from World War I. They were deprived of food and water, and left to die. 1.5 million Armenians were killed in the genocide.

While most books about Armenian history tend to disclose the dark victimization that plagued this people, the Topouzian chose to focus on the victories hidden within this extraordinary time, and to emphasize the heartbreaking choices that can make real life victories possible.

"If it weren't for fiction, I believe we would know very little about our world. A list of historic facts might come and go, but when our imaginations become involved, we learn. When we are able to place ourselves within the story and laugh or cry with the characters, we remember. Not many people know much about Armenia, its history or its people. I hope that this novel will open a small and interesting window into this culture. My culture."

~KERI TOPOUZIAN, AUTHOR



For more information visit: www.aperfectarmenian.com

