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## MICHIGAN AUTHOR CHOSEN FOR WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE NOVEL

*Baker & Taylor Publishing Group now distributing "A Perfect Armenian" to libraries, bookstores and retailers across the globe*

**Michigan** – *A Perfect Armenian*, written by Michigan author Keri Topouzian, and published by Hyevan Publishing, is now available to libraries, bookstores and retailers across the world through Baker & Taylor, a wholesaler and publishing company focused on digital and physical books, entertainment products and value-added services. Released in 2013, the novel illustrates the story of a good man who is born into a life of violence, illegal business and tough decisions at the onset of the Armenian Genocide. April 24 marks the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – a seemingly unknown culture-devastating holocaust that claimed over one million lives. In anticipation of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this coming year will be filled with Armenian celebrations of survivors, and remembrances of this terrible time in history.

Topouzian's novel is a work of historical fiction wrapped in adventure and mystery that was inspired by his own family's story of survival during the Genocide. "If it weren't for fiction, I believe we would know very little about our world," remarked Topouzian. "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."

Baker & Taylor accepted *A Perfect Armenian* for distribution in 2014 after a meticulous review process. Harvard Library and the University of Michigan are two of the first libraries to stock the novel. The publishing company has a long-standing history in the industry dating back to 1828 when it first began binding and publishing books. Distribution began later, and today the company is the world's largest distributor of books and entertainment with US locations in 11 states, as well as subsidiaries in Australia, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

"I'm very excited that "A Perfect Armenian" is now more widely available to bookstores and libraries via Baker and Taylor," remarked Topouzian. "I am so pleased and humbled to be among other Armenian authors who have also recently published novels and stories about this incredible time in history. I hope that readers will be both entertained, inspired, and educated through this novel."

Most notably, Baker & Taylor Publishing Group specializes in adult trade, promotion and juvenile books for all ages. Three imprints make up the group: Silver Dolphin Books; Thunder Bay Press; and Portable Press. The publishing company has eight major service areas focusing on library services, specialized software and higher education services. The company is driven by a passion for books, movies and music.

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**Baker & Taylor**, a privately owned distributor of books and entertainment, has been in business for over 180 years and is based in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2006, the firm had \$2.2 billion in sales, employed 3,750, and was #181 on Forbes list of privately owned companies.

**Keri Topouzian**, a Bloomfield Hills resident, was born in Detroit, Michigan. He graduated from the University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1982. Dr. Topouzian's mother, a journalist, was born and raised in Detroit while his father, a mechanical engineer, was born in Utica, New York. His grandparents hailed from four different villages in Ancient Armenia (now part of Turkey), each immigrating separately to the United States. Topouzian practices holistic and alternative medicine with offices in Grand Rapids and Detroit. He is active in the Armenian community but spends most of his free time with his wife and four growing children.

### ***A Perfect Armenian***

When Armenian drug smuggler, Tavid Kaloustian, fakes his own death and escapes; it is the first in a series of dangerous events that transform him into the champion of his people, even as he deals in the dark, deadly world of the opium trade. As the Turkish military closes in on him and his family, Tavid is forced into extreme choices in order to spare the lives of his fellow Armenians and to extract justice from the Turks who rule them.

### **The Armenian Genocide**

The Armenian Genocide, also known as the Armenian Holocaust,, was the Ottoman government's systematic extermination of its minority Armenian subjects from their historic homeland in the territory constituting the present-day Republic of Turkey. It took place during and after World War I and was implemented in two phases: the wholesale killing of the able-bodied male population through massacre and forced labor, and the deportation of women, children, the elderly and infirm on death marches to the Syrian Desert. The total number of people killed as a result has been estimated at between 1 and 1.5 million.

The starting date of the Genocide is conventionally held to be April 24, 1915, the day when Ottoman authorities arrested some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople. Thereafter, the Ottoman military uprooted Armenians from their homes and forced them to march for hundreds of miles, depriving them of food and water, to the desert of what is now Syria. Massacres were indiscriminate of age or gender, with rape and other sexual abuse commonplace.

Turkey, the successor state of the Ottoman Empire, denies that the word "genocide" is an accurate description of the events. In recent years, it has faced repeated calls to accept the events as genocide. To date, twenty countries have officially recognized the events of the period as genocide, and most genocide scholars and historians accept this view.