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**ARMENIAN GENOCIDE APPROACHES 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY, AUTHOR  
CAPTURES OWN FAMILIES STRUGGLES IN WORK OF HISTORICAL FICTION**

Michigan Author's Novel on Armenian Genocide Now  
Distributed Worldwide by Baker & Taylor

*United States* - April 24, 2015 will mark the 100 year anniversary of the Armenian Genocide -- a seemingly unknown culture-devastating holocaust that claimed over one million lives. With it are the memories of loss, hope and survival and the need to remember a tragic time in history. The historical fiction book, *A Perfect Armenian* by Michigan author Keri Topouzian captures the suspense and fear of an Armenian living during the genocide and serves as a reminder of a devastating time in our world's history.

Topouzian's novel is work of adventure and mystery, 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," said 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."

The now worldwide distributed novel takes the reader to April 24, 1915. On this day, the first phase of the Armenian massacres began with the arrest and murder of hundreds of intellectuals, mainly from Constantinople, the capital of Ottoman Empire (now Istanbul in present day Turkey).

Topouzian'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. In reality, they were deprived of food and water, and left to die.

Topouzian's book, *A Perfect Armenian* was inspired by his family's story of survival and the need to raise awareness about a tragic time in our world's history. 2015 will bring the 100-year anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. With it are the memories of loss, hope and survival.

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**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, the Armenian Massacres and, traditionally among Armenians as the Great Crime, 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. 2015 will mark the 100-year anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Turkey, the successor state of the Ottoman Empire, denies 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.

### **Baker & Taylor**

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

<http://www.btol.com/>

After a meticulous review process, *A Perfect Armenian* was accepted for distribution by Baker and Taylor in 2014. Now libraries, bookstores, and other retailers around the world can order in bulk and keep this historical novel more easily in stock. Harvard Library and the University of Michigan are two of the first libraries to stock this novel.