



*A*  
PERFECT  
ARMENIAN

❧ *Keri Topouzian* ❧



AS WORLD WAR I BEGINS,  
CONSTANTINOPLE IS A SEETHING  
HORNETS' NEST OF CORRUPTION,  
CRIME, AND PREJUDICE.

# A Perfect Armenian



THE  
NOVEL  
FROM  
KERI  
TOPOUZIAN



Trained as a chemist to work in the silk industry, Tavid trades his knowledge for both survival and the hefty profit of the opium trade. He is a major player in the local black market, moving stealthily through enemy forces often disguised as one of "them". After Turkish soldiers killed his beloved grandfather, Tavid's actions are fueled by rage. He becomes the misunderstood protector of his people; a charming one-man army, ready to take a life in order to save another. As he seeks justice, however, he learns that things aren't always, as they seem.

A novel based upon historic events, A Perfect Armenian leads us into the intimate world of cultural conflict. From Constantinople to Cyprus, the novel takes the twists and turns so deeply rooted in the duality of human nature.

## Order Info

Historically Based Fiction (Middle Eastern)

Hardcover

Publication Date: Dec. 2012

Price: \$25.95

Author: Keri Topouzian

ISBN: 978-0-9854124-0-1

320 pages

Hyevan Publishing: 248.240.0450

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**Distributor: Baker & Taylor**  
[www.btol.com](http://www.btol.com)

**Media / PR & Bookstores:**

Elisabeth Veltman, 616.530.1229

**Clarion Reviews:** (4 Stars) *Topouzian balances the fast pace of his novel with familial love and hope for a culture facing cataclysmic loss.*

**Kirkus Reviews:** *In his debut novel, Topouzian illuminates a historical episode that deserves wider understanding ...*



**Author, Keri Topouzian, DO, FACOEP, has two passions: holistic medicine and writing books. This is his first novel.**

## Reader Reviews

"Well written and riveting...The people and history came alive to me and I had a hard time putting the book down. I highly recommend this book."

~D. Derderian

"The book is brilliant. Reader beware, you are in for a wild ride! I had to close the book just to catch my breath. ... This is one book that SHOULD be made into a movie for the big screen."

~D. Dahn

"I really found A Perfect Armenian intriguing and written with a style and sense of humor! I love reading about places and cultures I have not experienced. Enjoyed it tremendously!"

~ M. Lochner

# *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



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# *A Perfect Armenian* Character Shorts



## **Tavid Kaloustian**

Tavid Kaloustian is a walking contradiction. Even as a young man, he is devoted to his family and natural born killer. He cares about his own welfare, as well as that of those he loves, yet he grows, deals, and imbibes in opium. He loves deeply, yet has a red hot rage toward his captors and the way they treat his people. As he embarks on the adventures of his life, he feels alive, and yet alone, so he finds and makes unusual friends. He would give his life for his friends, his grandfather trained him to protect them. But if you cross him, you will not only be sorry, you will lose your life.

## **Kalkim Bay**

Kalkim Bay has been in the Turkish military for most of his life. He is charming, ruthless, and cunning, qualities he has used well to advance his career. At 40 years old, he rose to the rank of Captain in the Ottoman Army, after his superior officer turned up dead. Most people fear Kalkim Bay and his lust for power. All but Tavid, who understands this tall, dark man's weakness for opium.

## **Tahir Bay**

Though his father, Kalkim, wishes that Tahir would follow in his footsteps, Tahir finds the military distasteful and does not share his father's lust for power. Tahir does share, however, an odd friendship with Tavid, despite their external front of hatred.

## **Karoun Eftendelian**

This young woman is more than a sixteen year old girl, she is the future wife whom Tavid's grandfather had chosen for him. Karoun's family has mixed feelings about Tavid, however, especially her father, who does not agree with Tavid's approach to the ruling Turks. Karoun was home schooled and works in the family restaurant, but has a mind of her own and shows it.

## **Anoush Kaloustian**

Widowed, still young at 37, and the loving mother of three, Tavid's mother, Anoush, has lived in Tchingiler for her entire life. She keeps a clean two room home as well as a high moral standard, however, the other villagers see her and her family, as "different." Her father, Yervant, became a father figure to Tavid until his death a year before our story begins.

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# *A Perfect Armenian* Reader Reviews (1)

"I couldn't put the book down. Fascinating, especially because it is built on historical truth that has not been talked about much. I learned a lot of history in reading this book. I am reminded that people will be as tough as life requires them to be. The Armenian people, caught in a terrible squeeze, responded as they had to. I also liked the happy ending."

~Larry R.

"A vivid, fascinating story portraying the time in Armenian history. It was truly hard to put down, a great read!"

~ Kristin W.

"Is this book fact or fiction? Read and decide for yourself possibly a little bit of both! This novel will keep you captivated! It was a learning experience for me the Armenian Genocide and the survival of a family. It is book you won't put down there is suspense, love for family, friends and survival."

~ Rosemary

When I started reading the book, I thought the characters were real, but after I got into the story, I realized that the characters were fictional, but the story is true. This story truthfully depicts what happened to the armenians under the tyranny of the Turkish Government. It was very emotional for many of us because it happened to many of our own families. I applaud the writer for putting forth his story in such a manner to make it interesting to the reader. All I can say is 'keep up the good work.'"

~ Ginny

"Balanced, accessible, and engaging across the emotional chart. The novel invites you to share the warm bread with Tavid as he kindles the fire. Enjoyed it, thank you."

~ geechop

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# *A Perfect Armenian* Reader Reviews (2)



“Fantastic read! There is something for everyone in this book, it covers so many different genres: history, fiction, romance, action, and adventure. This novel takes place in a time and world that no longer exists but must never be forgotten. We hear so little about the first large scale modern genocide and this book gives a little insight into how the Armenian people must have felt during those horrible years under the Ottoman's oppression and final solution. Props to Keri Topouzian for writing this fine piece of literature.”

~ Mark Riggs

“An excellent new historic novel at the time of the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire in 1915. This book is a good read for people of all ages. I would encourage young adults to read it as the main characters activities and actions will peak their interest. I am looking forward to the sequel and the future of the main character, Tavid Kaloustian.”

~ Ralph S. Kourtjian

“Well written and riveting, I found this book to be an eye-opener of the struggles, horrors and triumphs of the Armenian people. I loved that the author took his grandfather's notes, written in Armenian, and spent years transcribing those notes into English, watching as this story unfolded before his eyes. That is passion and dedication on top of a fantastic story. Is it true? Is it fiction? Both? The people and history came alive to me and I had a hard time putting the book down. I knew nothing about the Armenian people until I met my husband and began hearing stories of his grandparents who fled the genocide after their own unbelievable tales loss and courage. This book helped me understand his ancestry and of a Christian people persecuted by the Turks. I highly recommend this book.”

~ D. Derderian

“ I couldn't believe how much I learned about Armenian history – things I never knew about before. Fascinating, page turning read. Even after finishing the novel, I found myself asking, "what happens next?" "What will Tavid turn into?" "What else can I learn?" I want these characters to live on. To teach me more.”

~ Elisabeth

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# *A Perfect Armenian* Reader Reviews (3)



"I would recommend this book to everyone. From the moment I started reading it, I couldn't put it down. It was refreshing to learn about Armenian history in the form of such an exciting story. This book has everything; suspense, action, humor, romance, education, and even some poetry. Definitely read this book, you will not be disappointed! "

Reider

"This is not a book i would have normally chosen but I did enjoy it very much. I also had no idea of the horrible history of the Armenian people until I read this book. Very sad."

~ Beth

"I loved the story! A story of adventure, suspense, romance and history. All the elements of a perfect read. I hated to put it down! Great characters and wonderful read!"

~ Judy

"Had a hard time putting this book down...great book!! Felt such a sadness for what my ancestors have gone through."

~ Victoria

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