

In *Orphan in the Sands*, Victoria Haroutunian's confession about her past was an agonizing revelation, painful for both mother and daughter. Now Virginia could understand everything that had seemed strange and repellent about her mother, had alienated her and even driven her to hate Victoria. But there, sitting on a bench with her on Ellis Island, she experienced a moment of self-realization. She now understood "why she grew up having difficulty becoming close with school friends, and later, intimate with boyfriends" (159).

Virginia had been a lively child, full of energy, often praised by her teachers for work well done, but the transmitted psychopathological effects were there from early on and during her teens they began to manifest in her interpersonal relationships and continued to do so in her adult life. She never married. Several times she decided to move out and live independently, but her escape was always short-lived and she returned to her parents' unhappy nest as if by some mysterious magnetic attraction.

Virginia had become a replica of her mother in her relationships, behavior, and outlook. She had unconsciously adopted what she detested in her mother. But what was more important was the realization of the painful fact that "the scars of her mother's battles had been passed down to her" (174). She concludes that there were "two orphans in the sands" living in that house in Pontiac, Michigan (176).

Helene Pilibosian's life followed the same pattern. As we see in *My Literary Profile*, she became an extremely shy and introverted person, just like her mother, unable to socialize with people, unable to date, anxious in crowded places,