

no marketable skills and no knowledge of the local language. He worked hard and did his best only to see his family disintegrate" (272). With these circumstances compounded by the early death of his beloved wife, how could Mary have expected him to be loving and gentle? She had achieved more than she ever dreamed of and that attenuated the hatred, anger, and frustration in her heart. Her own bitterness was gone and what remained were "the ghosts of the massacred who lived on in Mama's vision and Papa's angry green eyes." She realized that she was "the vicarious victim of ethnic cleansing" (273), like most second-generation survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

Michael J. Arlen, the author of *Passage to Ararat*, grew up in a family in which any association with Armenia was denied. His father, Dikran Kouyoumjian, had severed his ties to everything Armenian, changed his name to Michael Arlen, married a Greek countess, and made a name for himself as an English writer.⁵³ He always brushed off his son's questions about anything related to Armenians. His mother, on the other hand, found a compromise position: "Your father's family have Armenian blood, but he is English and so are you." When his family moved to America as a result of the Second

⁵³ Michael Arlen (senior) was born in Ruse, Bulgaria, in 1895 to a well-to-do merchant family who had fled persecution in Turkey. He lived most of his adult life in England where he became a popular novelist, satirist, and playwright. He moved to New York and spent the last ten years of his life in the city, producing practically nothing, and died of cancer in 1956. For references to the life and work of this author, see Rubina Perroomian, *The Armenian Genocide in Literature: Perceptions of Those Who Lived through the Years of Calamity* (Yerevan: Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, 2012, 2014), pp. 79, 188–90.