

World War, Michael J. Arlen defined himself as Anglo-American, and then gradually, more American than Anglo (6). However, something different was apparently developing in his consciousness: "I became conscious of being accompanied by a kind of a shadow of 'being Armenian,' which other people sometimes noticed, or casually commented on, but which my father had said, in effect, did not exist. And so I, too, said that it did not exist" (7). He grew up with the impression, marked by his father's attitude, that there was something inferior and even dangerous in being Armenian, otherwise his father "would not have been so determined to move beyond it" (7). However, that shadow finally caught up with him, shattered the identity he had built for himself, and forced a long and painful search for the true identity his father had denied to him. The past and the trauma of the past that his father had tried to erase from his life extended their influence to the son.

Growing up under an unexplained shadow, surrounded by a mysterious secret, these children of the survivors of the Genocide had to come to self-realization by themselves. They had to struggle through the process of reconciliation with their own past, and with their parents, in most cases posthumously. The guilt, the sorrow, and the regret they experienced in that process drove them to another realization: with the secret now revealed, it must be shared with the world.

The story must be told

Despite being shut off from their parents' past, a realization occurs shortly before or soon after a parent's death that opens a complex world to the son or the daughter of a survivor, the