

positive in many families where the subject was freely and copiously discussed, which I will explore in chapter 2. David Kherdian explains the latter phenomenon in his Introduction to *Forgotten Bread*:

[T]he children... didn't want to listen, because the stories were too painful. They, the children, the first generation to be born in America, had a different set of problems; but unavoidably they absorbed the grief and concerns of their parents.⁵

Kherdian was born in Racine, Wisconsin, in 1931 to a family of survivors of the Genocide. He is the author of many books of poetry, memoirs, and novels, and the editor of several anthologies. According to a biographical sketch by Aris Janigian, "He is the most prolific Armenian American writer of his generation and one of the most important of any generation" (318). *Forgotten Bread* is an anthology of Armenian American writings collected and edited by Kherdian. They tell stories of the pain and suffering of survivors of the Armenian Genocide and their offspring "who were also survivors," as he puts it in the Introduction (xii).

The children of survivors of the Armenian Genocide are affected, but to what extent and to what degree?

⁵ David Kherdian, ed., *Forgotten Bread: First-Generation Armenian American Writers* (Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books, 2007), p. xi. This anthology includes a comprehensive list of Kherdian's publications (460–62), and the same criterion is adopted for every writer whose work is included in the volume.