

need to open his wounds and let the accumulated blood and pus gush out, while others resented him for ruining the party and repeatedly bringing up a past that was irrelevant to their present.²⁶

The mental health educator Suzanne Handler, author of *The Secrets They Kept* (2012), identifies five effects of keeping secrets in the family: it can destroy relationships, affect children's lives, cause suspicion and resentment, create a false sense of reality, and cause illness.²⁷ What would Handler think of the horrendous experience of the Genocide that many survivors tried to keep secret?

We encounter various reactions in the childhood reminiscences of second-generation writers, some overlapping and others contrasting each other. These reactions were mostly cause for pain and misery during their childhood, which they turn into guilt and regret when they reach self-realization.

Resentment and aversion

Victoria Haroutunian, a Genocide survivor, kept her past a closely guarded secret from her husband and children. In *Orphan in the Sands*, by her daughter, Virginia Haroutunian,

²⁶ Savyon Liebrecht, "Hayuta's Engagement Party," in *Apples from the Desert*, trans. Marganit Weinberger-Rotman (New York: Feminist Press, 1998), pp. 84–6. Anelka Karmirian, "Hayrs, Arpiar Markaryan" [My father, Arpiar Markaryan], in Arpiar Der-Markaryan, *Ardzagang ev Ants'ordē, patmvoatsk' ev husher* ["Echo" and "The passer-by": Stories and memoirs] (Istanbul: Aras, 2006), p. 229. For a more detailed analysis of these two cases, see Perroomian, *And Those Who Continued Living in Turkey after 1915*, pp. 147–9.

²⁷ Suzanne Handler, "5 Reasons Why Keeping Family Secrets Could Be Harmful," <http://psychcentral.com/blog/archives/2013/08/22/5-reasons-why-keeping-family-secrets-could-be-harmful/>.