

Aside from journalistic articles and reports, my introduction into this field was mainly through Kemal Yalçın's *Seninle Güler Yüreğim* (You rejoice my heart).¹⁹ Distribution of this book, written in Turkish and first published by Doğan in 2000, was blocked in Turkey. Two years later, in the presence of a notary public, the entire production of 3,000 copies was shredded. Meanwhile, Yalçın published the book in Germany in 2001 with his own means. It quickly went out of print and was followed by another self-published edition in 2003. Remarkably, the Turkish publishing house Birzamanlar published a new edition of the book in 2006, making it available to the wider circle of Turkish readers. My source is the Armenian translation of this book.²⁰ In addition, Elif Shafak's *The Bastard of Istanbul* and the Armenian translation of Fethiye Çetin's *Anneannem* (My maternal grandmother) further illuminated my path.

Yalçın, like the overwhelming majority of Turks in his generation, knew nothing about Armenians and what happened to them in 1915. The official historiography omitted all references to the existence of Armenians and the Armenian

¹⁹ Turkish writer and poet Kemal Yalçın was born in 1952 in the Honaz area of Denizli. He taught literature and philosophy in Turkish schools. In 1982 he moved to Germany, where he lives in Bochum and teaches Turkish language. He has published many poems, short stories, and novels. His two other novels are *Emanet Çeyiz* (Dowry on loan) (Istanbul, 1998), on the Turkish-Greek population exchange in 1920–1924, and *Sarı Gelin* (Sari Gyalin) (2006?), on Armenians who were forcibly Turkified. Both are published by Birzamanlar Yayıncılık.

²⁰ Yalçın, *Hogis kezmov ke khayta* (2003). All subsequent references are to this translation.