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The Continued Trauma

In quite different situations and circumstances, Armenian survivors continued their life, or at least tried to build a life on the ruins of the tormenting and everlasting memory of the past. For Diasporan Armenians, the name of the game was survival in an alien land with no hope of returning to their homes. Theirs was a struggle to cope with the tremendous loss, with a past that did not loosen its grip on their present or their future. Turkish writer Elif Shafak³⁴ observantly grasped that feeling and staged it in a conversation set among

³⁴ Elif Shafak (Şafak), a Turkish novelist, journalist, and academic, was born into a family of Turkish diplomats in Strasbourg, France, in 1971. Her father soon left the family and her mother raised her in Spain, Jordan, and Germany. She studied in Ankara and has taught Ottoman history and culture at Bilgi University in Istanbul and in universities in the U.S.