

## **Epic Novel Memorialises Armenian Genocide**

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*Origins: Discovery'* is a unique epic story set during the greatest conflict in human history; an alternative history intended to make the reader laugh, cry and contemplate our most important human values. It is a novel of love, culture and discovery, in spite of the tragic background. <http://originsdiscovery.com/>

In the world of today troubled by conflict and self-interest, the lessons of the World Wars seem to have been forgotten. Humanity: who are we? It is a troubling question if we ask ourselves how we can worry more about our social contacts than the suffering of people in places like the Holy Lands, Syria and Ukraine. If we want to understand how to treat each other more kindly, we need to examine our shared history and what the past teaches us.

*Origins: Discovery* starts in the 1930s, exploring the world of a small Armenian mountain village of Areni during Communist times. Armenia had been traumatised by the Armenian Genocide during the First World War, which resulted in the deaths of more than a million innocent civilians, and the attempted destruction of what was left of the ancient nation by the Ottoman Turkish Army. As the oldest Christian nation, Armenian people had been shocked by the inability to practice their religion under Communism, with its churches crushed and priests taken away to gulags or murdered.

The centenary memorial of the Armenian Genocide will be held on 24 April 2015, one day before the 100th memorial of the Gallipoli Campaign, during which thousands of young Australian and New Zealand soldiers lost their lives fighting the Ottoman Turks. The novel is written to memorialise these tragic events of the past, but at the same time to encourage the modern world to embrace peace and forgiveness.

Despite the background of darkness, Areni was a beautiful place of joy and cultural treasures in the form of music and dance, ceremonies and communal sense. It was a place of special ancient history, and one of the villagers unknowingly held within her a secret - a connection to the past that would ultimately cast light on all humanity.

The novel will take the reader on a journey of discovery to many cultures and peoples. It suggests that the answers to the world's troubles come not from messages of patriotism and nationalism espoused by some leaders, but the realisation that we are from a common origin. It reveals the possibility that our differences are actually our strength, and that the unsung heroes of our society are scientists.

I hope people enjoy the novel and learn a little about humanity.

Len Wicks  
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