

Destiny of Determination

Faith and Family



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Faith and Family
Cathy Burnham Martin



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Dedication



I humbly dedicate this book to Glenna Burnham, the amazingly wonderful woman I am honored to call my mother. She has dedicated her life to her family, faith, friends, and community without hesitation, question, or complaint. And she has done so with a deeply unwavering love and passion. I could have won a multi-million-dollar lottery and not been any richer than I already am to have grown up under her blessed guidance, unconditional love, and living example.



Author with Glenna Burnham

SHE TAUGHT US TO OPEN our doors, hearts, minds, and lives to others who were in need. She showed us the importance of always doing our best. And when we fell, she made us get back up and try again.

She has led more people to healthier, happier, more fulfilling lives than she is likely to ever be aware. But she has never sought recognition or even a pat on the back, although she deserves every possible accolade available and more.

She helped me maintain historical integrity in writing this literary novel about her family. For that and much more, I am deeply grateful.

I am forever touched by her unjaded passion. When someone does or says something sincerely giving or kind or meaningful, she bubbles over with the telling of their wonderfulness. And she does so with emotion cracking her normally steady voice and with heartfelt tears welling in her eyes.

Thank you, Mom for always loving, helping, and encouraging others. I can truly have no greater honor than proudly recognizing you as my mother.

With deepest love forever,

Cathy



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Introduction



Just when we think that, as a civilization, we humans might be evolving, we are confronted with yet another wave of forced refugees. Many cultures and countries have suffered this fate. In 2022, the terror featured Ukrainians, literally fleeing for their lives, just as my Armenian family did in attempts to escape the Ottoman Turks' genocide against them and other Christians early in the 20th century.

Armenians had lived peacefully in the shadow of the great Mount Ararat for thousands of years, and under the rule of a variety of conquerors. When Armenia became the world's first Christian nation, however, the Ottoman Turks' ire remained stirred for generations.

While the first book in this trilogy, Destiny of Dreams: Time Is Dear, focused largely on the suffering of Armenians trying to survive and escape death marches and outright massacres, it also reflected the importance of a family's love and fortitude. Book one honestly and bluntly shared the brutality of a time in history when the once powerful Ottoman Empire was declining, but it is not essential to have read it before starting here with the second book.

Destiny of Determination: Faith and Family continues my family's story. And yes, it is a true story. My family's true story. I write it for you as if you were sitting right beside me, and I was telling you the tale.

Thankfully, unlike the first book, this one needs no warning about violent content. Not all struggles must hail from intrinsically evil places.

Again, for privacy, I have changed the names of those still living among us, but I believe you will see and perhaps even feel the sincere

reflections of our deep commitment to faith and family. Primarily, I hope you sense the positive power in a family's struggle to move from immigration through discrimination on the road to freedom. America offered hopes and dreams to thousands of families, then trying to emerge from harsh political turmoil, religious persecution, economic chaos, and the ever-present threat of extermination.

As a friend of mine often says, every inch of earth is conquered soil. With that in mind, I hope that you, dear reader, feel as proud of the refugees in your ancestry as I do of mine. They fought for survival and a chance for a better life for the likes of us. May their sacrifices continue to prove worthwhile.

While language, religious, and cultural differences may initially feel dauntingly difficult to overcome, we can do it. From each group of refugees come new hopes and dreams, plus our next bounty of inventors, entrepreneurs, teachers, first responders, artists, leaders, parents, and much more.

May we strive to see the good, embrace the dreams, and encourage the very best. Thank you for believing. Thank you for being "enough."

Cathy Burnham Martin

Author



Some Primary Characters from Book 1



Destiny of Dreams: Time is Dear



GARABED OHANES GULUMIAN – 1870-1915 Van, Armenia; died April 1915; merchant, tradesman, and tailor; head of household in Van, Armenia; 2nd son of Ohanes Argistis Gulumian; ambushed and executed by Ottoman Turks in late April 1915

Aghavni Gadara Gulumian – born 1871 in Salmas, Armenia; 2nd daughter of Ara and Gadara (Movsesian) Samargian; married Garabed Gulumian in 1887 and bore all his children; set sail from Norway to United States 08/06/1916 with youngest sons Vahram and Hrant. (Aghavni's mother's maiden name was Movsesian.) Lost her paternal grandfather in Hamidian Massacres in late 1890s

Ohanes Argistis Gulumian – Garabed's father; lost his wife during Hamidian Massacres; younger brother of Argistis Gulumian, who moved to Constantinople following Hamidian Massacres at end of 19th century; ambushed and executed by Ottoman Turks in late April 1915

Ohanes Garabed Gulumian – born 11/08/1888 in Van, Armenia; 1st born son of Garabed and Aghavni; emigrated to United States 11/09/1909; filed petition in Boston, MA to become naturalized U.S. citizen

Aram Garabed Gulumian – born 11/28/1893 in Van, Armenia; 2nd son of Garabed and Aghavni; emigrated to United States 6/30/1912

Vahram Garabed Gulumian – born 3/26/1898 in Van, Armenia; 3rd son of Garabed and Aghavni; pernicious anemia, a rare blood disorder left him small, pale, and sickly

Nazeli Gulumian – born 3/26/1898 in Van, Armenia; twin sister of Vahram; engaged to marry Toros Kherbekian; raped and shot by Ottoman Turks in Gulumian home in late April 1915

Anush Gulumian – born 5/1/1901 in Van, Armenia; youngest daughter of Garabed and Aghavni; raped and shot by Ottoman Turks in Gulumian home in late April 1915

Hrant Garabed Gulumian – born 3/6/1906 in Van, Armenia; youngest son of Garabed and Aghavni; 9 years old when he, brother Vahram, and mother Aghavni ran for their lives to escape marauding Ottoman Turkish soldiers in 1915

Hulianna Terlemezian – Aghavni's best friend; widowed during Hamidian Massacres; sister-in-law of Garabed's friend Grigor Terlemezian

Dajad Terlemezian – born circa 1890; son of Hulianna Terlemezian; celebrated Armenian hero since, as a teenager, assassinated the Armenian traitor Davajan Davo in March 1908

Toros Kherbekian – 2nd son of Garabed's merchant friend Kherbekian; engaged to marry Garabed and Aghavni's daughter Nazeli; forced into Turkish military service; Turks disarmed and shot his entire unit, but he and one other Armenian survived

Dr. Paul Corasian – friend and mentor of Ohanes Gulumian in Boston; witness on Ohanes' application to be considered for U.S. citizenship

Also introduced to:

Marjorie Rowe Gulumian – born March 22, 1908; Hrant's future wife

Gabrianne – born June 25, 1930; Hrant's future daughter

Bob Bishop Burnham – born November 2, 1931; Gabrianne's future husband

Diana – born September 13, 1951; Hrant's future 1st granddaughter

Cassie – born May 10, 1954; Hrant's future 2nd granddaughter; suffered torturous, repeating nightmares in junior high school, leading to many healing months spent with Hrant and Marjorie, followed by them gifting to her Aghavni's wedding ring, the only item from Armenia that made it to America



Dial 9-1-1

1



CASSIE AND ROY arrived home from work as usual, parking the SUV on the pavement beside the garage attached to their Cape Cod gray, center hall colonial home. The day's tasks at his telecommunications office had been plentiful.

"Darling," Cassie began. "Vacation was so wonderful, but today was just not long enough to catch up on all the details. I fear I barely got through the emails and voicemails."

"I agree. We need a vacation to recover from vacation. Thankfully, the staff had kept the day-to-day operations humming smoothly." Roy continued, "And you, my marketing queen, made all those prior arrangements that were set in motion in our absence. Everything is fine. With so much happening, we had missed our vacation for two years. 2011 is our year. That Caribbean cruise had been a long-awaited and much-appreciated respite for us both. I loved traveling with you again."

As they pulled into their long, tree-lined driveway, Cassie had smiled upon seeing their lovely farmer's porch with its inviting Adirondack chairs and ottomans. She and Roy especially loved coordinating the 6 large, hanging baskets with seedlings each spring. Now in the full swing of summer, the late July warmth had coaxed them to overflow with colorful abundance.

"You're right, Babe," she responded. "I loved traveling with you, too. As we arrive home, I also appreciate your attention to detail. Thank goodness you painstakingly used that clear plastic tubing to create our

invisible automatic watering system for the flower baskets. Even after being away for 10 days, the flowers are still vibrant and healthy.”

“Though a bit tall, the lawn looks perfect, too.” Roy beamed as he admired the green grass.

“Oh, how Grampa would have enjoyed this... and YOU,” Cassie uttered. “I know I’ve told you this before, but my grandfather, Hrant Gulumian, crosses my mind so often when it comes to little things you do. Just like Grampa, your lawn has to be perfect, as if rivaling some country club’s golf course greens. Just like Grampa, you love flowers, birds, and boats. Just like Grampa, you have extraordinary intelligence, an uncanny mathematical ability, and a seemingly natural knack for engineering and constructing things. I wish he had lived long enough to meet you.”

She smiled as Roy walked into their garage. Cassie knew Grampa and Roy would have enjoyed each other so much.

“Why on earth did you leave the garage refrigerator door open?” The irritation in Roy’s sudden question jolted Cassie back to her business of unstrapping the carry case for their little dog, Bandit. Though he had stayed with other family members while they traveled, the 7-pound maltipoo accompanied them every day to the office, becoming a highly celebrated mascot and companion.

“I did no such thing,” Cassie replied. “I never went near that refrigerator this morning. But thank you for your impatience, reminding me of all the ways you and Grampa differ.”

Stepping into the garage, which housed two other vehicles, she immediately spied many of the cabinet doors gaping open also. They had added extensive cabinetry in the garage, along with a work bench and sink to give Roy an organized place for his many tools and projects. The results had marked another commonality that likened Roy to her Grampa. But now everything seemed in great disarray. She could not imagine Roy intentionally leaving the cabinetry in such a manner.

Still carrying her work case and Bandit in his official travel bag, Cassie started up the three steps to enter the house. Roy was rapidly approaching from the kitchen. His eyes wildly glared.

“Go back. Get out of the house. We’ve been robbed!”

He helped turn her around, and they both exited swiftly through the garage. Roy hissed, “Call the police.

Someone may still be inside.”