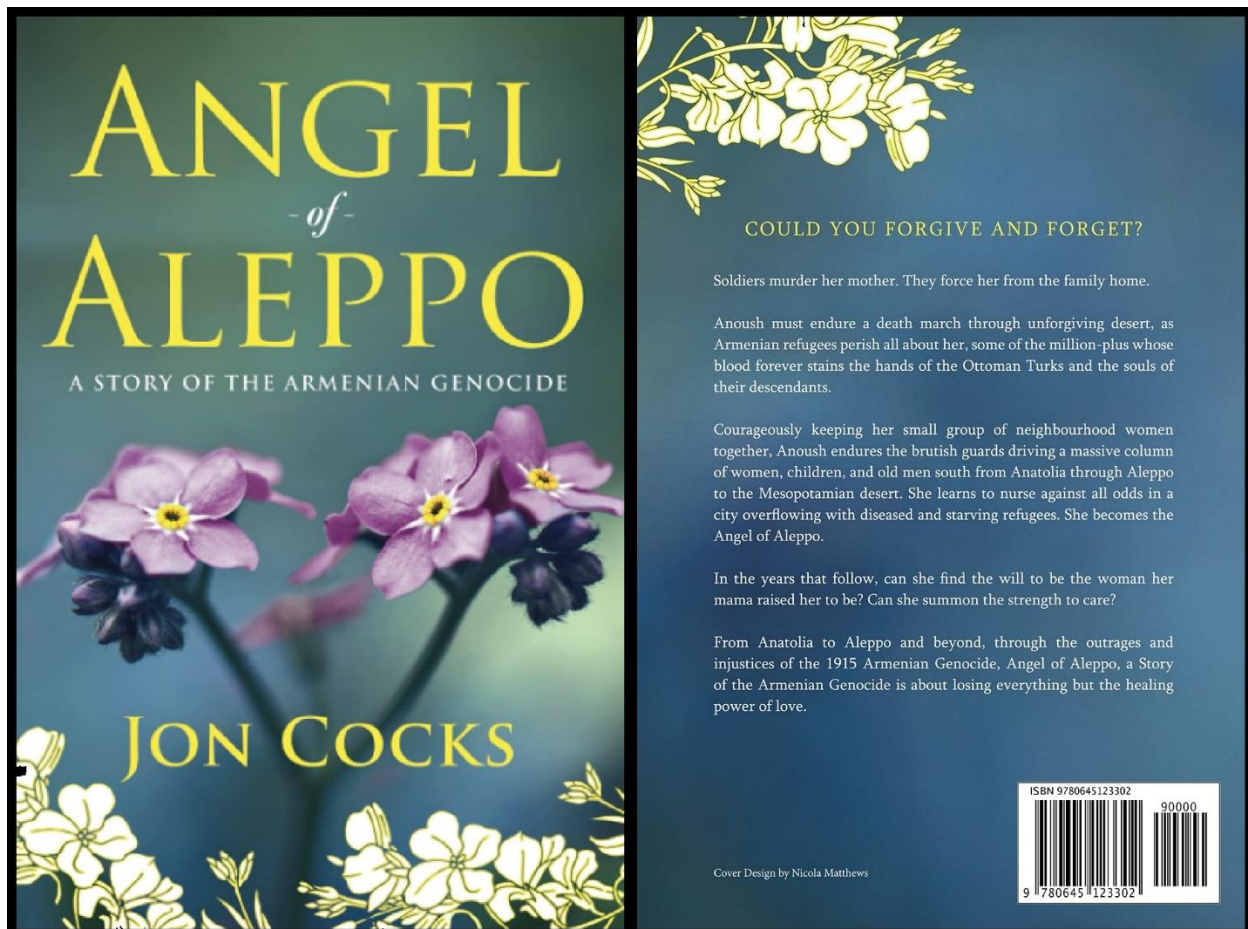




Angel Of Aleppo Is A Story For Today...

Australian Author Jon Cocks.



Angel of Aleppo by Jon Cocks

Angel Of Aleppo Is A Story For Today!

Soldiers murder her mother. They forced her from the family home.

Anoush must endure a death march through unforgiving desert, as Armenian refugees perish all about her, some of the million-plus whose blood forever stains the hands of the Ottoman Turks and the souls of their descendants.

Courageously keeping her small group of neighbourhood women together, Anoush endures the brutish guards driving a massive column of women, children, and old men south from Anatolia through Aleppo to the Mesopotamian desert. She learns to nurse against all odds in a city overflowing with diseased and starving refugees. She becomes the Angel of Aleppo.

In the years that follow, can she find the will to be the woman her mama raised her to be? Can she summon the strength to care?

From Anatolia to Aleppo and beyond, through the outrages and injustices of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, *Angel of Aleppo*, a Story of the Armenian Genocide is about losing everything but the healing power of love.

Review by Literary Titan: Emotionally charged historical fiction that feels like it's a true story... the writing is wonderful.

Review by Glam Adelaide: Reads like a thriller except that, tragically, it is based on truth...belongs on the big screen...How can so many of us not know about this?

Review by Readers' Favorite: A must-read for readers who enjoy historical fiction. I found it absolutely riveting and highly recommend it.



5 Stars: "For without love, where are we?"

'Angel of Aleppo' is a profoundly thought-provoking account that speaks to the horror of the Armenian Genocide, which preceded Adolf Hitler's Holocaust.

Author Jon Cocks demonstrates his impeccable research, as even today, there are those in Turkey who still deny their own history. With clarity of mind, heart, and soul this author masterfully brings his readers back to 1915. This story is so intense, the scenes so clear, your mind will act like the silver screen. For those of us who will never travel to the War Memorial on North Terrace in Adelaide, South Australia, Jon Cocks is on a mission to honor the estimated 1.5 million Armenians who were tortured and killed. Adelaide's memorial is like the Cenotaph in London. It carries the names of fallen SA soldiers. Anoush goes there as it is the only place, she can think of to honour Thomas, who was a belated war casualty.

It is important for you to know that 'Angel of Aleppo' was inspired by the author's wife Lilit's grandmother Anoush, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, who lost her own mother in 1915. Every living Armenian remains affected by the genocide, now four generations ago.

As you read 'Angel of Aleppo' you will be reminded that "Faith's light can lift the darkest soul. Faith's fire can warm the coldest heart. Faith, it is said, can move mountains."

I invite you to walk alongside a nurse named Anoush, as this is her story. Watch her bring love and compassion to others, as horrific events unfold around her. 'Angel of Aleppo' is a brutally honest account that will stir deep emotion. It should serve as a stark reminder not to cover up or deny history.

The author has placed a wonderful glossary of Armenian, Turkish and German words at the end of this book. I suggest you familiarize yourself with it before you begin reading.

Jon Cocks taught secondary Drama and English for many years. He has unpublished cartoon strips, a long list of credits in community theatre, a long-running TV ad, several one-act plays written for students, and a novella about being a teacher called 'Duty of Care'. Other than an enduring love affair with his Armenian-born wife Lilit, Jon loves books, theatre, movies, the Adelaide Crows, cricket, and wine.

I highly recommend this book to those of you who want to know history and also those of you who are determined to teach upcoming generations about the horror of genocide and the value of faith.

Editorial Review (Book Marketing Global Network).



Review by Dean Chavooshian: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. "I pray and ask why innocent people must die for no reason". Reviewed in the United States on June 24, 2021. This is a story that must be told! A story that has been denied - but should never be forgotten. A story that is a window into the human condition of love and hate. A story of strength in the long, dark, shadow of despair. A story that altered the trajectory of world history.

Jon Cocks has written a masterful book titled *Angel of Aleppo*, chronicling the life and deeds of a nurse named Anoush who survives the real-life horrors of a meaningless war. In 1915, during World War 1, the Ottoman government of Turkey orchestrated the first genocide of the twentieth century against their Armenian population. It is estimated that 1.5 million Armenians were sought out, round up, unmercifully killed, and forced to endure endless death marches through the desert where they died of starvation or worse. It is well known in 1939 that Adolf Hitler said "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians" - paving the way for the horrors of the Holocaust.

The reader follows the life of a nurse named Anoush as she witnesses all these horrific events, including the brutal murder of her mother. She unselfishly helps others and becomes the embodiment of love,

compassion and understanding, reaching mythical status as the Angel of Aleppo. The writing is compelling and deep with emotion, so much so that I needed to put the book down from time to time to catch my breath and remember how cruel life can be.

As a second-generation Armenian myself, I have heard all the stories of death and survival from my grandparents on both sides. They struggled for years to make their way west to America and start a new life, although my grandfather on my father's side was so embittered, he joined the French Foreign Legion to go back to Turkey. In America, and in all diaspora locations, Armenians persevered mightily and maintained their rich culture. The protagonist Anoush exhibited a similar deep inner strength to endure even the harshest of life's events - with dignity and purpose.

I hope many people read Jon's book to help better understand a piece of forgotten history, still denied by Turkey today. He has done an admirable job in his research. I hope many people read Jon's book as a vivid reminder that compassion trumps hate. It's a theme worth remembering always. I also hope the book is appreciated for its rich and captivating prose.

Review by Irene Korsten: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Dramatic and startling read. Reviewed in the United States on November 21, 2021. I highly recommend Angel of Aleppo. Jon's research and writing are second to none. His heart and soul are clearly embedded in this story. A difficult and important subject matter (one that is sadly, not being acknowledged as it should be across the globe) handled incredibly well.

From the Author: The story of Angel of Aleppo was inspired by my Armenian wife Lilit's own grandmother Anoush, who witnessed a Turkish soldier murder her own mother in 1915. Few Australians know the other April 1915 story, the April 24, 1915, slaughter of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, initially smoke-screened by the Dardanelles campaign. Turkish leaders instigated a long-formulated plan to begin murdering Armenians, because the world's attention was on the Dardanelles. Few Australians know of Armenia, let alone the unacknowledged genocide that tortures its national soul. Once I had come to understand the Australian connection, and mindful - in June 2014 - that the 2015 centenary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide was looming, the idea to stage a play formed in my mind. The Armenian Cultural Association of SA worked with me in Adelaide to stage my 75-minute play to commemorate the centenary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015. The play's action centered around a confrontation at the SA War Memorial on North Tce between an elderly Armenian woman and an elderly Turkish man on the fiftieth anniversary of the genocide: April 24, 1965. After the group performed the play successfully in Adelaide and to great acclaim for two performances in Sydney, Lilit and I agreed that the journey was not over. I decided to build on Anoush and write the novel.

Anoush is inspired by Lilit's grandmother, an indomitable woman who survived the genocide, lived into her eighties, and imbued love, respect, and family values into every one of her 37 grandchildren. The character is sixteen when a nightmarish day changes her life forever. She suffers alone and as a part of the greater Armenian suffering but draws on the strength of her family background in her darkest moments to prevail. I began crafting the narrative of my literary Anoush's youthful trials during 1915-19, beginning by fleshing out experiences alluded to in her character's dialogue from the play. A great deal of research followed in the next year and there were numerous artistic choices made. Angel has a number of cameo appearances by characters who were real life historical figures, e.g., US President Woodrow Wilson. In those instances, I research their lives and study photos of them, looking for clues to their characters in their faces. In the case of characters who are literary constructs, like Anoush, I imbue them with character-appropriate physical qualities and personality traits from actual people I know or have

known. I have an image of a beautiful blonde, blue-eyed woman in my head, which no artist can realize to my satisfaction. That is why there is no image of Anoush on the cover.

The novel's ongoing theme is the outrage that was the Armenian Genocide and the lack of recognition of it by the successors of its perpetrators. The fact that the Armenian Genocide was the first Genocide of the twentieth century is an indictment upon every overly ambitious leader who ever pulled on a jackboot and donned medals before ordering his army to murder civilians. Mass killings of people because of race or colour or other ideological and/or religious obsession are a stain what constitutes civilisation. They make a mockery of what 'civil' means. Those who do not study history, so the truism goes, are doomed to repeat its mistakes. And there is no shortage of well-fed, middle-aged men with imperatorial ambitions not averse to throwing the weight of their armed forces about to make an ideological point. And on a less murderous scale, but no less iniquitous, are the many neo-conservative leaders abroad today who, with the financial support and particular concerns of their billionaire friends as influences, use government machinery and ideological justification to deny a decent living to large sectors of their populations. Social justice is a commodity sorely lacking in this post-modern world of materialist obsession that so often overshadows simple humanity.

And this brings me to the most important theme of all, that of love, an emotion so enduring and so powerful in its purest form that it can prevail against the most appalling disasters and hateful crimes. Anoush suffers like few have suffered, but the power of the love in her heart sees her through. For without love, were, are we?

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About Jon Cocks: Jon Cocks taught secondary Drama and English for many years. Angel of Aleppo, a Story of the Armenian Genocide is his first full-length novel. He has unpublished cartoon strips, a long list of credits in community theatre, a long-running TV ad, several one-act plays written for students and a novella about being a teacher called Duty of Care. Other than an enduring love affair with his Armenian-born wife Lilit, Jon loves books, theatre, movies, the Adelaide Crows, cricket, and wine.

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