

# The silent patient

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# Author

Alex Michaelides was born in 1977 and the author of the silent patient book. He is a bestselling British-Cypriot author and screenwriter. His debut novel, the psychological thriller *The silent patient*, is a New York Times and Sunday Times bestseller, with over a million copies sold.

He has a degree in English literature from Cambridge and an MA in screenwriting at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. He studied psychotherapy for three years, and worked for two years at a secure unit for young adults. This work provided material and inspiration for his debut novel *The silent patient*.

# Characters table of contents

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# Alicia

Alicia Berenson was a famous artist who was 33 years old when she was arrested of killing her husband

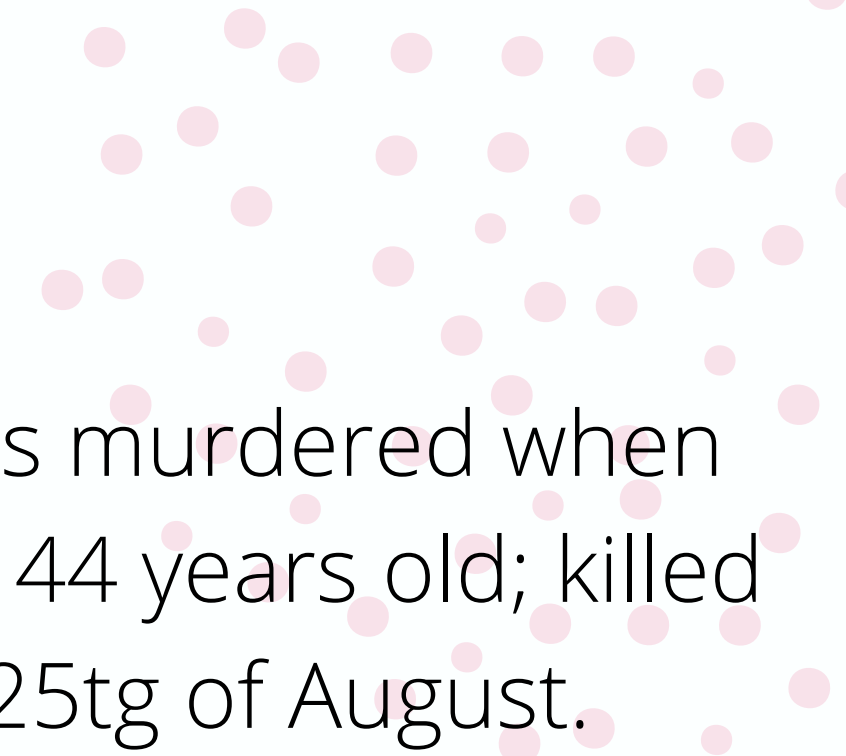
She remained silent when they arrested her, refusing to deny her guilt or confess it.

She never spoke a word since.

Due to a plea of diminished responsibility, she is admitted to a secure forensic unit called the Grove.

She had therapy sessions with her psychiatrist Theo Faber but never spoke in the sessions.

# Gabriel



Gabriel Berenson was a well-known fashion photographer.

Since his death, the price of his photographs has increased astronomically.

He was murdered when he was 44 years old; killed in 25tg of August.

The day he died was the hottest of the year.

The day of his murder, he reached home at 11 pm.

Half an hour later, their neighbor heard several gunshots and called the police.

He was found bound to a chair with gunshot wounds to his face.



# Theo

Theo Faber, the novel's narrator who is 42 years old is a psychotherapist who hopes to treat Alicia and cover the mystery behind her motives for killing her husband.

She titled it *Alcestis*, named after a heroic in Greek mythology who sacrifices her life to save her husband.

As they sit in silence, the main clue he has is a painting she completed.

Although, she remained silent during the therapy sessions, Alicia gave him her diary which she describes she was being watched in her home by a masked man the weeks before the murder.

# About the story

After the murder of her husband she never spoke again also in her therapy session with her psychotherapist Theo. Once, Theo told her that they both experienced the same childhood, similar kind of fathers. They both wanted to get away from their fathers as soon as possible as both their fathers physically and mentally abused them. He told her that he just wants to help her and wants her to talk to him. Suddenly, she nodded her head saying okay.

During the next session she finally spoke to him and told him about the masked man that was watching her and that Gabriel thought she was imagining it so he decided to take her to a doctor.

In her diary she wrote that the first time she met Theo she recognized him. It was him! The masked man! So, she didn't tell him the true story, lied at him of how Gabriel had died. She could see that he knew she was lying and was scared of her, could see it from his eyes.

# The story of how Gabriel died

That night, Theo broke into their house to confront Gabriel, who had been having an affair with his wife Kathy and wanted to waken Alicia to the truth. He tied them up, back to back so they couldn't see each other's faces.

He untied her wrists, dropped the gun to the floor and walked out. He didn't do anything as he had only intended to expose Gabriel's selfishness. Gabriel's betrayal reminded her of her father so she killed him.

Theo gave Gabriel the choice to decide either he dies or she does and he chose not to die. So he pointed the gun at her and she closed her eyes. Heard a gunshot but she was still alive. He was pointing the gun to the ceiling.


He applied for the job at the Grove to help her but when she lied about how Gabriel died, he knew that she recognized him so he puts her into a coma through a drug overdose.

# How Theo got caught



Alicia recorded the events in her diary before losing consciousness, which is found by Allen who had investigated what happened to Alicia and what led her into a coma.

Allen went to Theo's house and started reading him Alicia's final entry, while he feels a sense of relief at being caught.



# Title, opinion, and a better ending

The title of the book is the silent patient and it's perfectly suited to the book. This is because Alicia, one of the main characters was silent after the murder of her husband and never said a single word.

In my opinion, I think it could have ended in a better way if the author wrote that Theo got consequences for his abrupt and selfishness actions. In addition, I'd hoped to see Alicia have a deserved happy ending.

I personally rate the book 98% and highly recommend it to people as it is deserved to be read.

