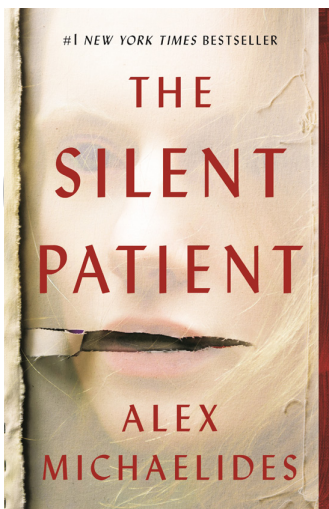




CELADON  
BOOKS

# THE SILENT PATIENT BY ALEX MICHAELIDES

## Discussion Questions



“AN UNFORGETTABLE—AND HOLLYWOOD-BOUND—NEW THRILLER... A MIX OF HITCHCOCKIAN SUSPENSE, AGATHA CHRISTIE PLOTTING, AND GREEK TRAGEDY.”

—ENTERTAINMENT  
WEEKLY

TITLE: *The Silent Patient*  
AUTHOR: Alex Michaelides  
PUBLISHER: Celadon Books  
TP ISBN: 9781250301703  
FORMATS: Hardcover, Trade  
Paperback, Ebook, Audio

*THE SILENT PATIENT* IS A SHOCKING PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER OF A WOMAN'S ACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST HER HUSBAND—AND OF THE THERAPIST OBSESSED WITH UNCOVERING HER MOTIVE.

1. The story begins with the revelation Alicia murdered her husband. Why do you think the author made this admission at the very start?
2. Alicia's diary plays a key role in the book. What purpose do you think it serves? And does your perception of Alicia change the more you read?
3. Alicia's silence is related to the Greek myth of Alcestis. How do you feel about the story of the myth? Why do you think Alicia is silent?
4. Theo's motives to work with Alicia are complicated. Do you think he wanted to help her?
5. Both Alicia and Theo had difficult childhoods. Early on, Theo says no one is born evil. That who we become depends on the environment into which we are born. By the end of the novel he appears to change his mind, saying that perhaps some of us are born evil, and, despite therapy, we remain that way. Which do you think is true?
6. Weather plays a large role in the book, such as the heat wave during the summer. What purpose do you think the description of the weather serves in the novel?
7. Do you think the world of a psychiatric unit was convincingly portrayed? How do you feel about Diomedes and the other psychiatrists?
8. We never enter Kathy's mind in the book. Do you have any sympathy for her?
9. What do you think happens at the end of the book? The last line is ambiguous.
10. It's a psychological thriller with a twist. The author has said he was influenced by Agatha Christie. Did you feel this was simply a detective story or are there any other influences you can spot?