

APPENDIX I

SYNOPSIS OF *THE SILENT PATIENT*

The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides is a story in the psychological thriller genre that tells the point of view of Alicia Berenson and Theo Faber. Starting from Alicia Berenson, a famous painter who was found guilty of killing her husband, and famous photographer Gabriel Berenson, who was tied up and shot. Alicia was found by police standing over her husband's body with a gun in his hand. During the trial in court, Alicia did not say a word when questioned. And since then, he has been admitted to the Grove forensic unit, an asylum for the criminally insane.

Six years later, Theo Faber appears, who is a new forensic psychotherapist who is interested in the Alicia Berenson case. Theo applies to work at Grove and volunteers as Alicia Berenson's personal psychotherapist. On the other hand, Theo also tells his life story where he has a past that he is trying to overcome, including a difficult childhood, plus he finds out that his wife is having an affair, and he finds out that his wife's lover is already married. After seeing the Alicia Berenson case, Theo thought that he had a chance to prove himself as a therapist who could solve a mystery that had caught the attention of the public.

Theo realizes that Alicia is a unique patient with the nickname "*The Silent Patient*" who refuses to talk to anyone and spends her days sitting in her room or painting. She remains mute during the therapy sessions, but Theo continues to try various ways to get Alicia to talk, including reducing her medication, allowing her to paint, and giving her time outside. She also tries to connect with him and shares stories about her own life and struggles. Over time, Alicia begins to trust Theo and reveals details of his past.

One day Alicia gave Theo her diary. Alicia's diary becomes Theo's focus in finding new facts, where Alicia details the weeks before her husband's murder. He is being watched by a masked man who is suspected of being either his brother-in-law, who once attacked him or the owner of an art gallery he once turned down. He also revealed details about his relationship with Gabriel, including his affair and their struggles to start a family. Theo becomes obsessed with the diary and uses it as a tool to uncover the truth about Gabriel's murder.

Meanwhile, Theo's personal life is falling apart. He learned that his wife, Kathy, was having an affair with a colleague. Theo's obsession with cases and his personal life begins to take a toll on his mental health, causing him to question his

own sanity. As Theo cares for Alicia, a web of lies and secrets is uncovered that leads him to believe that there is more going on than meets the eye, and Theo becomes convinced that Gabriel's murder was not a random act of violence but a carefully planned and executed act of revenge. Then Theo contacted Alicia's cousin to find out more about her. Alicia's cousin told how the impact suicide of Alicia's mother when she was small had a great influence on Alicia's development, which was also neglected by her father.

Feeling that he has the same past, Theo tries to talk about his traumatic childhood with Alicia, which finally provokes Alicia to start talking. Then it starts to unfold that Theo is the masked man. Theo is the man who watches over Alicia and the house every day across the street from her house. Theo breaks into Alicia and Gabriel's house to confront Gabriel, who is having an affair with Theo's wife, Kathy. Theo then tied up Alicia and Gabriel while pointing a gun and exposed Gabriel's affair with his wife in front of Alicia. Then Theo gave Gabriel a choice to save himself or Alicia, but Gabriel chose to save himself. Then Theo let go of the rope he tied to Alicia and left the Berenson house without shooting Alicia or Gabriel. Because Theo just wanted to reveal Gabriel's affair with his wife. But this betrayal reminds Alicia of her father's painful betrayal after her mother's death, with emotion and darkness, Alicia shoots Gabriel in the face and kills him.

It is the news of Gabriel's murder that triggers Theo to apply for a job at the Grove, out of guilt, he tries to help Alicia recover from a murder case as her therapist. When Alicia can speak, she tells Theo that it was she who killed Gabriel but that the man in the mask was behind it all. And Alicia realized that Theo was the masked man. After learning Alicia's story, Theo's world falls apart when he realizes that he has lived in a lie. He is overcome with guilt and tries to kill Alicia with an overdose of the drug morphine, which puts her in a coma. Then Theo accused the Christian doctor who gave Alicia the drug of overdosing. However, unbeknownst to Theo, Alicia had revealed that Theo was the masked man in his diary before he fell into a coma. Alicia's friend found the diary and gave it to the police. When the police later arrived at Theo's house and read Alicia's last diary to him, the play ends, and Theo is relieved that he has been arrested. In the story, Theo talks about his wife's affair not happening in the present but in the past before Gabriel's murder with a backward and forward plot.

APPENDIX II

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Alex Michaelides was born in Cyprus in 1977. His father was Greek Cypriot, and his mother was English. He studied English literature at Trinity College, Cambridge University, got an MA in screenwriting at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles, studied psychotherapy, and worked in the secure unit. He wrote the 2013 movie *The Devil You Know*, which starred Rosamund Pike and co-wrote the 2018 movie *The Brits are Coming*, which starred Uma Thurman, Tim Roth, Parker Posey, Sofia Vergara, and Parker Posey. *The Silent Patient* was his debut novel and his first thriller. It was the subject of a fierce sale between publishers around the world, and Orion released it in the UK in February 2019. *The Silent Patient* was on the New York Times' top list for more than a year and has sold a record-breaking 6.5 million novels in 51 countries. *The Silent Patient*, Michaelides's first novel, was the best-selling hardcover launch in the US for 2019. It was also the best-selling hardcover fiction book in the New York Times in its first week. *The Maidens*, Michaelides's second novel, was released by Orion Publishing (UK) on June 10, 2021, and by Celadon Books (USA) on June 15, 2021. This is a psychological mystery novel about a series of murders at a Cambridge college. The book launched at number two on The New York Times' list of best-selling fiction for the week ending June 19, 2021.

Furthermore, Alex Michaelides had the good fortune to grow up in a house that was full of books. His mother started a small library, and all the authors who would later affect him as a writer—Charles Dickens, Evelyn Waugh, Angela Carter, Margaret Atwood, Robert Graves, and Henry James—were taken off the shelves and given to him with the command to "read."