

The Silent Patient: participant questions

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Whole-book spoilers. Optional prompts for adult discussion. Pass on any item without explaining why.

Book: The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides. Reference ISBN 9781250301697. Your edition / chapter notes:

Before full-book spoilers

What made the opening narrator sound credible, before you had enough evidence to test that credibility? | How did the presence of a painting alter your expectation of a story centered on silence?

Q01. How does Theo describe his interest in Alicia? What part of the explanation is a fact, and what part asks for trust?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q02. What does silence allow other people to project onto Alicia? Compare two accounts that appear to explain the same absence of speech.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q03. How does the painting become a text people try to read? What can it support, and what do interpreters add to it?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q04. Which professional term or role gives a character authority in a scene? Does the narration offer evidence equal to that authority?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q05. Where does curiosity become possession or control? Identify the language that marks the shift rather than diagnosing a motive.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q06. What does the book let readers know through a document that a spoken conversation would frame differently? Consider the document's possible audience.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q07. How does the order of scenes shape an assumption about time? Find a point where sequence on the page encourages a conclusion.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q08. Which clue becomes more visible after the ending, and which apparent clue was only an inference? Keep those categories separate.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q09. How does the thriller form affect your willingness to accept a narrator's account of care? Would the same claim read differently in another genre?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q10. Does the final disclosure settle every question about Alicia's actions? Name one judgment it resolves and one it leaves open.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q11. What changes when you reread the first assessment of Alicia after the ending? Quote only a short phrase or describe the shift in your own words.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q12. Which part of the ending depends on a person controlling an account rather than controlling an event? Explain why that distinction matters.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

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