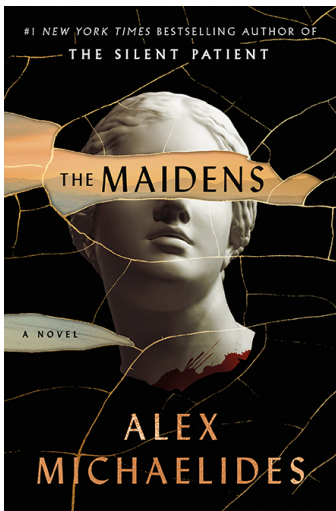




CELADON  
BOOKS

# THE MAIDENS

## Discussion Questions



“ALEX MICHAELIDES’S LONG-AWAITED NEXT NOVEL, ‘THE MAIDENS,’ IS FINALLY HERE...THE PREMISE IS ENTICING AND THE ELEMENTS IRRESISTIBLE.”

~ THE NEW YORK TIMES

TITLE: *The Maidens*  
AUTHOR: Alex Michaelides  
PUBLISHER: Celadon Books  
TP ISBN: 9781250304469  
ON SALE DATE: 5/24/22  
FORMATS: Trade Paperback, Hardcover, Ebook, Audio

1. Now that you know who the murderer was, did you guess correctly? Which red herring was the most convincing? Looking back, what clues did you miss about the killer’s identity?
2. What do you make of the ending scene? What do you think happens to Mariana and Zoe after the events of the book?
3. Do you agree or disagree with Mariana’s reaction at the end? Do you think she was right to be upset or do you believe she should’ve been more compassionate?

*Suggested by Spooky Book Club (Boston, Massachusetts)*

4. How do Mariana’s memories of her school years at Cambridge influence her actions when she returns there?
5. The book opens with Mariana’s assertion of Fosca’s guilt. How did this impact your experience and interpretation of the murder case?
6. How did Mariana’s expertise as a group therapist help her throughout the book? How did it lead her astray?
7. The book switches between straightforward narration and chapters written as letters. Did you like this choice? What did you make of the letter portions when the book began, and how did your understanding of them change as the book progressed?

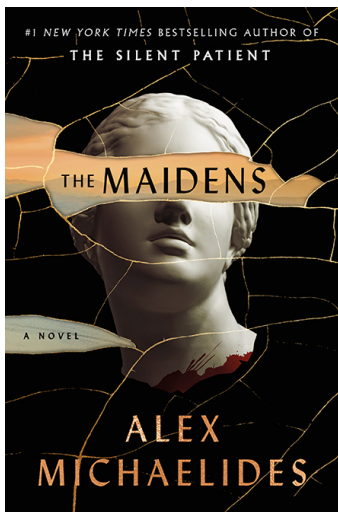
FROM THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE SILENT PATIENT* COMES A SPELLBINDING TALE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE, WEAVING TOGETHER GREEK MYTHOLOGY, MURDER, AND OBSESSION, THAT FURTHER CEMENTS “MICHAELIDES AS A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE FIELD” (*PUBLISHERS WEEKLY*).



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~ OPRAH DAILY

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8. Who did you think was the male POV in these letters throughout the book? Did your hypothesis change at any point?

*Suggested by The Bookworms (Miami, Florida)*

9. There is a lot of Greek mythology in the book. How is the symbolism of the Persephone myth significant in the story?
10. This story explores a number of father-daughter relationships. In what ways are they similar? Different? How does Mariana's own relationship with her father impact how she interprets relationships between other fathers and daughters?
11. Do you think the murderer's actions were a product of abuse?

*Suggested by The Book Queens (Naperville, Illinois)*

12. While Mariana is a keen observer, she also misses a number of important things throughout the story. What does she miss, and why do you think she does?
13. If you read *The Silent Patient*, you know that a key character from that story appears in *The Maidens* as well. What other stylistic or symbolic similarities exist between the books? Why do you think the author returned to these themes? As a reader, did you like these connections?

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~ LUCY FOLEY,  
NEW YORK TIMES  
BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
OF *THE GUEST LIST*